

Sidon stages strike against Israelis

SIDON (R) — Residents of Sidon went on strike Friday and held protest demonstrations against Israeli troops of at least 15 local residents. Eyewitnesses said that following the protests, Israeli and Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" militiamen patrolled most districts of the southern Lebanese city, setting up checkpoints and searching cars. Security sources said Israeli troops had entered the suburb of Harret Saïda and arrested about 15 residents, mainly from the Shi'ite Muslim Amal movement, over the last two days. State-run Beirut Radio said Israeli forces Friday opened fire on the demonstrators, who staged a sit-down strike at the Shi'ite religious and cultural centre. All shops in the suburb stayed closed. Palestinian refugees in the Alia Al Hilweh camp, east of Sidon, cut off entrances to the camp by burning tyres to protest against the Israeli raids and arrests.

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Murphy arrives in Cairo for talks

CAIRO (R) — United States Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy arrived in Cairo Friday for talks with senior Egyptian officials, airport sources said. The U.S. official is on a tour of Middle Eastern countries, probably to sound out parties to the Middle East conflict on ways of achieving peace in the region. Mr. Murphy, who flew in from Baghdad after holding talks with senior Iraqi officials, has also visited Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Israel. The first senior U.S. official visiting Cairo since President Reagan was reelected to office, Mr. Murphy is expected to see President Mubarak over the weekend.

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Aeroflot official found hanged in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — The manager of the Soviet airline Aeroflot in Tunis was found hanged in a cupboard in his office here on Tuesday and preliminary police investigations showed he had committed suicide. Tunisian newspapers reported Friday, Ernest Vassilyev, 50, had been in Tunis for about three years, the papers said. A spokesman for the Soviet embassy confirmed the reports but said he could not add anything.

Bourguiba to remain in hospital for 1 week

TUNIS (R) — President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia, 81, who entered hospital for treatment of an unspecified heart condition on Monday, must rest there for at least a week more, the presidential palace announced. A palace medical bulletin said this was the unanimous advice of his physicians. They now include two French heart specialists who came here as a precaution after a request through President Francois Mitterrand of France, the bulletin added.

PNF head returns from Sana'a talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestinian National Fund (PNF) Chairman Hanna Nasir returned to Amman Thursday after chairing a three-day meeting of the fund's 57th session held in the North Yemeni capital of Sana'a. Attending the meeting was Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat. Topics discussed during the meeting dealt with the PLO's financial situation as well as the fund's revenues. The meeting also urged some Arab countries to honour their financial commitments in accordance with the Baghdad summit.

Jury awards \$100,000 to Redgrave

BOSTON, Massachusetts (AP) — A federal jury on Friday ordered the Boston Symphony Orchestra to pay Vanessa Redgrave \$100,000, ruling it "caused foreseeable harm" when it cancelled a series of concerts featuring the British actress because of her support of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). But the jury also found the symphony had not cancelled the concert "because of their own personal disagreement with political views that Vanessa Redgrave publicly expressed."

Israel jails Kahane deputy

TEL AVIV (AP) — A district court Friday sentenced to five years in prison an American deputy of Jewish extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane for shooting at a Palestinian bus in the occupied West Bank. Yehuda Richter, 21, was also found guilty of setting fire to Palestinian-owned cars in the West Bank and throwing firebombs at several Palestinian homes and offices. Richter ran as no. 2 on Rabbi Kahane's Kach slate for the July 23 Knesset (parliament) elections, but only Rabbi Kahane was elected on the platform which advocates the expulsion of all Arabs from Israel and occupied territories.

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Fateh Revolutionary Council endorses decision to hold PNC in Amman Nov. 22

By Lamis K. Andoni
 in Tunis with agency dispatches

The Revolutionary Council of Fateh, the mainstream commando movement within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), has approved a decision by the movement's Central Committee to hold the 17th session of the Palestine National Council in Amman on Nov. 22.

The Revolutionary Council's approval was announced Thursday following a meeting of the council, presided over by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and attended by most of the Fateh Central Committee members and two thirds of the Revolutionary Council members.

Time and venue of the PNC session was the main subject of a lengthy and detailed debate of the Revolutionary Council and Fateh Central Committee during Thursday's session.

Well-informed sources told the Jordan Times that the Central Committee members discussed efforts exerted for ensuring a comprehensive Palestinian dialogue and convening the PNC in time and after deliberations reached the decision to hold the PNC in Amman.

The sources added that most of

the Revolutionary Council members agreed to the Central Committee's decision on holding the PNC in Amman, while some members expressed their reservation over the decision.

However, a communiqué issued by the Revolutionary Council Friday said the council members unanimously agreed to convene the PNC's 17th session in Amman. The communiqué also called on all Palestinian factions to shoulder their responsibility towards making the PNC session a success and to take part in the PNC session to be held on Nov. 22.

The council also called on all Palestinians and patriotic organisations to stand firmly in the face of any attempts aimed at disunifying the unity of the Palestinian people.

It also condemned the

Lebanese-Israeli talks which began Thursday describing it as a "Murphy deal," referring to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy who is currently on a Middle East tour. The council also praised the Lebanese national resistance for its stands against the Israeli occupation forces.

The council also thanked Algeria and South Yemen for their efforts to make the Palestinian national dialogue a success, and which resulted in concluding Aden-Algiers agreement. It also praised the two countries' efforts to reconcile the PLO with Syria.

It also hailed Saudi Arabia and North Yemen for their efforts to improve relations between the PLO and Syria.

Meanwhile, intensive consultations were underway on the weekend between a number of PNC members and representatives of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Palestinian Communist Party (PCP).

The DFLP, which was represented in the meeting by its Assistant Secretary General Yasser Abed Rabbo and its political bureau member Saleh Ra'fat, and PCP delegate Na'im Al Ashab did not agree to holding the PNC in Amman and have informed Fateh of their decision not to take part in the meeting if it is to be held in Amman. However a senior Fateh

official said seats will be reserved for DFLP and PCP delegates even if they were not willing to take part in the PNC session.

The sources also said that the Syrian-backed "national alliance" factions might be suspended from the new PNC.

DFLP leader Nayef Hawatmeh said Thursday the DFLP and Fateh were near agreement on holding the PNC session and would set a date for it within a week despite rebel objections.

Mr. Hawatmeh, told Reuters in Damascus that members of the so-called "democratic alliance" and Fateh had agreed to convene the PNC regardless of whether the rebel "national alliance" would agree to attend.

The PNC last met in February 1983 and failed to hold a meeting this year. The "national alliance" insists on Mr. Arafat's ouster and other leadership reforms before agreeing to convene the PNC.

Both the "democratic alliance" and Fateh, the biggest PLO group, reject the rebel demands. The DFLP is part of the "democratic alliance" but believes reforms should be considered once the PNC is convened.

Mr. Arafat has repeatedly said that the 379-member council will meet before the end of the month and that Jordan is ready to play host.

The meeting was originally sch-

eduled for Algiers in September.

Mr. Arafat, seeking to reassert his leadership of the PLO after 18 months of in-fighting, has made clear in recent statements he is not willing to spend more time in so far fruitless negotiations with the minority PLO factions.

The PNC last met in February 1983 and it failed to convene this year because of inter-Palestinian differences.

Two thirds of the 384 membership (five have died) form a quorum for the meeting and Mr. Arafat is on record as having said that 254 members have agreed to attend.

There is no firm break-down on the number of pro and anti-Arafat members, but according to Mr. Arafat's supporters he can muster an easy majority to ensure his reelection as PLO leader.

Another key member of the "democratic alliance," Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) leader George Habash, was unavailable for comment on Mr. Hawatmeh's statement.

Although he and Mr. Hawatmeh generally agree on the alliance's platform, observers say Dr. Habash has been hesitant to distance himself from the "national alliance" and may want more time to bring it into the fold.

Algerian and South Yemeni officials met representatives of Fateh

and the two alliances in Algiers last week in a fresh attempt to reconcile the groups.

Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam also went to Algiers on Sunday, just after the reconciliation talks broke up, to discuss the Palestinian situation with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

Syrian-backed rebels led by Fateh dissident Abu Musa waged war against Mr. Arafat in eastern and northern Lebanon and have since managed to block the PNC from meeting, for fear it might lead to Mr. Arafat's reelection as PLO chairman.

The "national alliance" consists of Abu Musa's breakaway Fateh members, and the radical groups Saïqa, the Popular Struggle Front and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

A spokesman for the "national alliance," Mahmoud Labbadi, told Reuters Mr. Arafat could probably win enough favourable votes at a PNC meeting to remain PLO chairman, by relying on independent PNC members and delegates from Palestinian trade unions.

But he doubted Mr. Arafat, without approval from the alliances, could organise two-thirds of the PNC required for it to convene.

Papandreou arrives today for talks on Mideast, bilateral ties

By Olga Mikhael
 Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, arrives in Jordan Saturday for a two day state-visit.

Mr. Papandreou's visit, the first-ever by a Greek premier to Jordan, as part of a tour of the Middle East aimed at enhancing relations between Greece and the Arab World and contributing to a better understanding between the Arabs and Greeks, according to the Greek ambassador in Jordan, Georges Conostas.

During his stay in Jordan, Mr. Papandreou will hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, Minister of Foreign Affairs Taher Al Masri and Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani and other officials.

Ambassador Conostas said in an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Papandreou's talks in Amman will include political issues, planned Jordanian-Greek joint ventures, cooperation between Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, and other officials.

The official, who declined to be identified, said Israel made clear at the opening of the talks Thursday in the Lebanese border village of Naqoura that it hoped Syria would withdraw its troops from Lebanon once Israeli soldiers were pulled out.

Israel saw no point in allowing



Georges Conostas

the Greek national carrier, Olympic Airways, and the possibility of linking Aqaba with Piraeus with ferry services.

Following are excerpts from the Jordan Times' interview with Mr. Conostas.

Question: How do you describe Jordanian-Greek political, economic and cultural relations in the context of Arab-Greek ties?

Answer: Greece is enjoying very good relations with the Arab World. As for Jordan, our relations in all aspects — political, economic and cultural — are good and steadily improving.

In terms of politics and the common attachment of both Jordanians and Greeks to the cause of peace, we believe that it is necessary to find a peaceful solution in the Middle East that would secure the rights of the Palestinian people for self-determination. Greece backs the right of the Palestinians to establish an independent state, if they so desire, in the West Bank and Gaza. At the same time Greece also recognises Israel's right to live within recognised boundaries.

Jordanian-Greek economic relations are limited but we are striving to better them.

Greece and Jordan signed a bilateral cultural agreement in 1976. Now we have over 500 Jordanian students studying in Greece and most of them benefitting from scholarships granted by the Greek government. We also have a cultural exchange programme that grants 16 scholarships every year

(Continued on page 3)

Israel hints at unilateral action in South Lebanon

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A senior Israeli official said Friday that Israel would make its own "security arrangements" in southern Lebanon if troop withdrawal talks with the Lebanese ended in failure.

The official, who declined to be identified, said Israel made clear at the opening of the talks Thursday in the Lebanese border village of Naqoura that it hoped Syria would withdraw its troops from Lebanon once Israeli soldiers were pulled out.

Israel saw no point in allowing

the military-level talks to drag on and would unilaterally make "security arrangements" if the talks did not reach a satisfactory conclusion, he said.

No Israeli spokesman has put a time limit on the talks but officials have suggested about three months.

The negotiations, held in the presence of United Nations officials at the U.N. headquarters in South Lebanon, are due to take place three times a week from next

(Continued on page 3)

Berri vows to step up armed resistance in south

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon and Israel have conferred in the border village of Naqoura to negotiate an Israeli troop withdrawal from South Lebanon, but Shi'ite Muslim leader Nabih Berri said armed resistance would continue despite the talks.

Lebanon's national news agency quoted Mr. Berri as saying: "Resistance will continue regardless of what is taking place at Naqoura and until the last Israeli soldier withdraws from the south, the western Bekaa Valley and Rashaya."

Mr. Berri, who is state minister for South Lebanon, told reporters at his office in Beirut: "We will recover the south through political and military resistance, and will not accept that political resistance weaken military resistance."

The Israeli occupation forces have been coming under daily attacks by resistance forces in South Lebanon and, according to official Israeli figures, 601 soldiers have been killed after the Jewish state's invasion of Lebanon. Over 300 of these deaths were caused by resistance attacks.

Abu Odeh returns with Mubarak's message to Hussein

AMMAN (J.T.) — Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh returned to Amman from Cairo Thursday after delivering a message to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak from His Majesty King Hussein.

In a statement upon his arrival in Amman, the minister said that the King's message dealt with coordination and consultation between Egypt and Jordan on various Arab affairs.

Mr. Abu Odeh also said that he was carrying a message to King Hussein from the President Mubarak containing Egypt's appraisal of the international situation vis-a-vis the Palestine problem and the outcome of the president's recent visits to France and West Germany.

During his visit to Egypt, Mr. Abu Odeh met with Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali.

Mr. Abu Odeh was accompanied on the visit by Mr. Hussein Hammami, secretary general of the foreign ministry, who, according to press reports here, is the strongest candidate for assuming the position of Jordan's ambassador in Cairo.



Heavy militia fighting splits Beirut into two

BEIRUT (R) — Beirut was effectively cut in two Friday as security forces tried to quell the heaviest street fighting in months on the civil war battlefield dividing west and east Beirut.

Regular bursts of heavy machine gun fire, rocket propelled grenades and light arms broke out along the "green line" and echoed throughout the city only hours after a four-man security committee arranged a ceasefire.

State-run Beirut Radio reported that most of the sniping and rocket explosions came from the Sodeco crossing area in the city centre where tension remained high.

The ceasefire was the fifth since armed clashes broke out Thursday after Israeli-Lebanese talks on an Israeli troop withdrawal from South Lebanon opened in the southern Lebanese village of Naqoura.

Four of the six main "green line" crossings remained closed

indefinitely after the army Thursday night issued a communiqué saying they would not be reopened until a "radical solution" had been found.

Traffic in west Beirut was much lighter than normal, schools were closed and many shops and offices were shuttered because staff were unable to commute from the eastern sector of the capital.

Rival militias accused each other via their radio stations of resuming clashes at dawn Friday morning after an overnight lull. The cause of the fighting was unclear.

The Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) Voice of the Mountain Radio said two people were killed in Friday's shelling and several wounded. Newspaper reports on the number of injured in Thursday's clashes ranged from 15 to 30.

Radio stations said the security committee, which represents the army, mostly Christian "Lebanese

Forces", Shi'ite Muslim Amal movement and the PSP militia, divided the "green line" into five areas to be patrolled by sub-committees.

The new flareup was one of the most intense barrages of gun, grenade and rocket fire since the army implemented a Beirut peace plan in July which banned militiamen from the streets.

Since then the appearance of militiamen near the "green line" has forced closure of crossings on several occasions, but in most cases they were reopened within hours.

The battles started only a few hours after the Lebanese-Israeli talks opened Thursday.

Several groups not represented in Lebanon's "national unity" government have denounced the talks and threatened unspecified punishment of participants in the discussions, but it was unclear whether the two events were connected.

Nicaragua seeks urgent U.N. talks on 'U.S. threats'

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Nicaragua Friday called for an urgent meeting of the Security Council to deal with what it U.N. ambassador termed threats and violations from the United States.

The request was made at a meeting between the ambassador, Javier Chamorro Mora, and Security Council President Ling Qiang of China.

Mr. Chamorro Mora told reporters the council would hold closed-door consultations and he hoped a public debate would, begin no later than Monday morning.

He said the meeting had been requested to take up the "threats and violations which we are suffering from the United States."

In Moscow, the official Soviet news agency TASS said the United States had fabricated reports that Soviet MiG jets were being delivered to Nicaragua in order to prepare the ground for an invasion of the country.

"The U.S. government has come out with false assertions that some ship or other is headed for Nicaragua with Soviet MiG planes on board," TASS said.

"The aim of this provocative venture is clear — to prepare the ground for a military attack and invasion by American forces on Nicaragua territory."

The TASS commentary was the first public Soviet response to a U.S. warning to Moscow on Tuesday against delivery of advanced combat planes to Nicaragua's left-wing government.

U.S. officials said they suspect the MiG-21 planes might have been delivered aboard a Soviet freighter which docked this week at the Nicaraguan pacific port of Corinto.

Moscow has been reporting alleged U.S. plans to invade Nicaragua since September, comparing such an operation with the invasion of Grenada in October last year.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has indicated that the Soviet Union has told the United States it has not shipped advanced fighter planes to Nicaragua, the New York Times reported Friday.

The newspaper quoted Mr. Shultz as having stressed in an interview that Washington would treat any appearance of Soviet

Cabinet approves expatriate conference guidelines

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has approved the main guidelines and preliminary arrangements for holding the first Jordanian expatriate conference in Amman on Aug. 1, 1986.

Commenting on plans to hold the conference, which will be held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, chairman of the conference's preparatory committee, said two categories of people will take part in the conference. The first, he said, groups representatives of all ministries, the two houses of parliament, the Central Bank of Jordan, the Social Security Corporation, Water Authority of Jordan, the three Jordanian universities, the Industrial Estates Corporation, the Housing Bank, the Industrial Development Bank, Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions, Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, Amman Financial Market, professional associations, the Housing Corporation, the Association of Banks in Jordan, the Association of Travel and Tourist Agents, the Jordanian Women's Federation, the Free Zones Corporation and the Insurance Companies Association.

The second category, Dr. Abdul Jabbar said, includes representatives of Jordanian diplomatic mission abroad, to be selected by the Foreign Ministry, labour consultants and Jordanian expatriates.

Dr. Abdul Jabbar said about 300 expatriates, nominated by the Jordanian embassies and consulates abroad, will take part in the conference in addition to some 60 others who will be nominated as alternate attendees.

The geographical and professional distribution will be taken into consideration upon the selection of those to attend the conference, Dr. Abdul Jabbar added.

The preparatory committee, Dr. Abdul Jabbar said, did not stipulate that those who will take part in the conference should be holders of Jordanian nationality.

Those who are of Jordanian origin can also take part in the conference, particularly those who are now in Europe, America and Australia, he added.

Participants will be divided into three committees, namely economic, expatriate affairs and labour market and social security, he said.

Six working papers about the economic situation in Jordan, Jordan's development plans, investment opportunities in Jordan and the incentives provided by the Jordanian government in this regard will be prepared by the ministries and institutions concerned and will be discussed at the conference.

The conference, organised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, aims at getting acquainted with the living and working conditions of expatriates, and getting to know about their major interests with a view to briefing them on investment opportunities in Jordan

MI6 jet fighters in Nicaragua as a serious development.

Mr. Shultz will meet Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto at a meeting of American states opening on Monday, their first encounter since the row erupted.

The dispute is likely to lead to stormy sessions at the annual meeting of the 31-nation Organisation of American States (OAS) in the Brazilian capital, diplomatic sources said.

Nicaragua's leftist Sandinist government said in two protest notes to Washington on Sunday it fired on a U.S. C-130 aircraft violating its airspace.

Nicaragua may have received SAMs, page 8

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Middle East conference predicted for next year

CAIRO (R) — An international conference in Geneva to discuss steps for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict was likely in mid-1985, Egypt's presidential Foreign Affairs Adviser Osama Al Baz was quoted as saying.

He was quoted as saying in an interview with the daily Al-Akhar newspaper Thursday that Egypt thought the second half of 1985 would be suitable for the conference because "we need time for preparations. Both Arabs and Palestinians must coordinate their positions."

The United States, fresh from presidential elections, and Israel, which needs to settle in politically after the formation of the coalition government, also required time to study and consider the prospects, he said.

Dr. Baz said the conference

should convene even if Syria declined to attend. "We cannot mortgage the drive to solve the problem for the convenience of any Arab side," he was quoted as saying.

He was also quoted as saying it was necessary to widen international participation in the conference, and Soviet presence was essential.

Dr. Baz said Western Europe was considering steps for the revival of the 1980 European Community Declaration which called for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, Pal-

estian rights to self-determination and a peaceful settlement through the United Nations.

"Some European countries are considering amending and revising the declaration," he said without elaborating.

But the weekly Al-Mussawir magazine said Mr. Mubarak was pressing Paris and Bonn for practical steps to translate the declaration into actions.

It said a visit by Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi to Egypt on Nov. 17 would deal primarily with these steps. Italy will be the next chairman of the Community.

Dr. Baz said Mr. Mubarak did not discuss any arrangements or dates for a Geneva meeting when he visited France and West Germany last month.

Euro-Arab forum urges sanctions against Israel

MADRID (R) — A group of Arab and Western European parliamentarians have called for international economic sanctions against Israel.

A statement issued at the end of three days of plenary sessions by the Euro-Arab parliamentary dialogue said:

"The delegates called for the abrogation of economic agreements between the European Community and Israel as part of international measures against that state in order to oblige it to comply with international resolutions."

The 90 members of Western European and Arab parliaments also called on European parliamentarians to "do their utmost

to enlighten American opinion on the true facts of Middle Eastern problems and bring as much pressure as possible to bear on Congress and the new American administration."

During the plenary debates, Arab parliamentarians expressed concern at the possibility of Spain establishing diplomatic links with Israel.

The statement reaffirmed what it called the main political goals of the 10-year-old dialogue — withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied Arab territory and Lebanon, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and increased mediation efforts to end the Gulf War.

Israel rejects Iraqi charges over nuclear reactor raid

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Israel has denied a charge by Iraq that it planned attacks similar to its June 1981 air raid against a nuclear reactor near Baghdad.

Israeli Ambassador Benjamin Netanyahu was responding to Iraqi Ambassador Wissam Zahawi during the opening of the General Assembly's annual debate Thursday on the Israeli attack.

Mr. Zahawi said U.N. members were bound to support and act on a three-year-old Security Council resolution demanding that "the aggressor... refrain in the future from any such acts or threats thereof" and place its own nuclear facilities under the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) safeguards system.

Mr. Netanyahu said Israel had no intention of attacking nuclear facilities dedicated to peaceful purposes anywhere. It also supported efforts to reach agreement on regulating the status of nuclear facilities and to enhance the IAEA's role in ensuring that nuclear energy was a credible and safe source of peaceful development.

Egypt's Ahmad Khalil said the Israeli action had been a blatant

violation of international law and the U.N. charter.

Referring to Israel's claim that Iraq had been planning to produce nuclear weapons, he said he could not accept the "illegitimate self-defence" argument and considered the "preventive attack argument" as unjustified.

Mr. Khalil said the nuclear facilities near Baghdad had been confirmed as in keeping with IAEA safeguards and their activities were of social and economic benefit to the Iraqi people.

Israel, on the other hand, had not given up its threats to attack other nuclear facilities in the region and ignored resolutions designed to prevent such attacks, he said.

Savitri Kunadi of India said her country had unequivocally condemned the Israeli attack and saw it as a new threat to international peace and security and a new form of international terrorism at the state level.

She said the Iraqi installations which were "wantonly destroyed" were part of Iraq's efforts to use nuclear energy for development.

10 sentenced to death in Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — Ten leftist militants were sentenced to death by a military court in Istanbul, judicial sources have said.

The defendants, from the underground Turkish Peoples Liberation Party/Front, were accused of forming an armed organisation to overthrow the state, as well as murder and robbery.

The sources said 25 of the 197 defendants were sentenced to life imprisonment and 71 were given jail sentences of up to 23 years.

The cases dated from the last 1970s when political violence was rife in Turkey. Military authorities began mass trials after their coup in 1980.

Sixty-four defendants were acquitted at Thursday's hearing and the case against 27 was adjourned.

Meanwhile, an Istanbul military court Thursday confirmed jail sentences of up to eight years on 23

leaders of a Turkish peace campaigning group but released six on bail pending completion of their appeal.

Those freed included Mahmut Dikermen, president of the group and a former Turkish ambassador, and Orhan Apaydin, former head of the Istanbul Bar Association.

The defendants, members of the Turkish Peace Association, were convicted of trying to overthrow the state in a case which caused international concern because unlike many other trials in Turkey since the 1980 military coup, the association was not accused of involvement in violence.

Eighteen were sentenced to eight years in jail and five to five years.

The court Thursday completed a review of its original sentences, imposed last November, which the defendants won on appeal but the case is automatically returned to the appeals court in Ankara for further consideration.

If that court maintains its view that the sentences should be annulled, the case will go before a higher judicial appeal board which takes the final decision.



ROYAL GIFT — His Majesty King Hussein has presented an Iraqi army officer with a gift for coming first among his group who graduated from the Royal Academy on Tuesday. The presentation of the gift to Ra'd Hashim Kazem took place at the Royal Court on Thursday at a meeting attended by Iraqi Ambassador Ibrahim Shujaa' Sultan (Petra photo)

Arab leaders congratulate Reagan

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Gulf leaders sent messages and telephoned congratulations to President Ronald Reagan and Vice-President George Bush on their re-election, while newspaper editorials warned against the eventuality of a U.S.-provoked nuclear catastrophe.

King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia were first to send messages to Mr. Reagan and Mr. Bush, with the king doubling with a telephone call to greet the American president.

In his message, King Fahd said the peace-loving world was looking forward to a U.S. role in favour of justice, stability and security throughout the world.

Sultan Qaboos of Oman, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad of Qatar, along with other Gulf Arab leaders sent similar messages to Mr. Reagan. Most of these leaders stressed the necessity of American efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and redress the Palestinian people.

But Palestinian commando leader Yasser Arafat was quoted as saying "I trust neither Reagan nor his thinking."

In Dubai, the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al-Bayan cautioned against a "re-elected Reagan wielding so much power that he can push a black button and unleash a nuclear catastrophe" on the world.

The pro-government newspaper criticised the Reagan administration for "pro-Israeli, anti-Arab bias," accusing the U.S. of collusion with Israel in "judicialising" occupied Arab territory.

It also claimed that Mr. Reagan was the "prime mover behind attempts to fragment OPEC and snatch the oil weapon from its owners to turn it into a dagger against the OPEC nations."

Government-owned wire services and radio stations along the Gulf reported that messages of congratulations also have been

sent to Mr. Reagan by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri and Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad.

News commentators distributed by the Gulf news agencies contended that Mr. Reagan had instigated the Israeli destructive raid on Iraq's nuclear reactor more than three years ago and the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

These commentators expressed uniform views, mainly that if Mr. Reagan's performance during his first term in office was to be taken as a measure of his performance in the second term, then the Arabs should have reason to be afraid.

But almost all commentators stressed that the Arabs were hopeful that Mr. Reagan's Mideast policy will be different during the coming four years.

They underlined a desire to see Washington exert itself for a Middle East solution and an even-handed policy between the Arabs and Israel.

African summit may be dominated by Moroccan walkout

By Jean-Loup Fievet
Rome

NAIROBI — The annual gathering of African leaders next week in Addis Ababa is likely to be dominated by a walkout from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) by founder member Morocco, African diplomatic sources say.

But this unprecedented move should not be allowed to wreck the OAU's 20th Summit, they said.

In the past two years, the 51-member body has been close to breakup because of deep ideological disagreements over the Chad civil war and the Western Sahara, where the Polisario Front is fighting Morocco for control.

African diplomats said privately they felt that the Western Sahara dispute should not be allowed to put the very existence of the Pan-African body at risk, and drain the continent's energy from confronting key issues of drought, economic decline and the fight to end white minority rule in South Africa and Namibia (South West Africa).

King Hassan of Morocco recently warned that his country would leave the OAU if the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) proclaimed by the Polisario took a seat at the conference room in the Ethiopian capital.

The Algerian-backed Polisario, which has been waging an eight-year-long desert war for the independence of the former Spanish territory, was admitted as the OAU's 51st member during a ministerial meeting in February 1982.

The Polisario is recognised by a majority of OAU member states and has said it will take part in the 20th Summit.

Nigeria, black Africa's economic giant and an influential policy-maker, has illustrated the black African diplomatic mood by overtly siding with the Polisario.

Nigerian Foreign Minister Ibrahim Gambari told Reuters six weeks ago that the OAU should admit SADR delegates to its 20th Summit, adding: "Preservation of the OAU is paramount but it has to take a definite position on the admission of Western Sahara."

Diplomats say only a handful, if

any, of African nations is ready to follow Morocco out of the OAU and the kingdom's friends in Africa were relieved to hear King Hassan say he would not ask them to do so.

The fact that, for the first time King Hassan would not call on the support of his moderate, pro-Western allies augured well for the successful holding of the summit, they said.

In August 1982, Morocco was able to block SADR participation in a planned OAU summit in the Libyan capital of Tripoli by mustering enough friendly states to boycott it, depriving the meeting of the required two-thirds quorum.

The row over representation of Chad, responsible for the failure of an attempt to reconvene the August meeting in Tripoli in November 1982, is unlikely this time to jeopardise the forthcoming OAU summit, Chadians and diplomats agreed.

NEWS ANALYSIS

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U.N.-Arab League ties opposed by U.S., Israel

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States and Israel have cast the only negative votes against the General Assembly resolution calling for strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and the Arab League.

The vote on the draft, sponsored by Jordan, was 134 to two, with two abstentions, Ethiopia and Zaire.

U.S. Ambassador Alan Keyes objected to a paragraph requesting the U.N. Secretary Gen-

eral to cooperate with the League's General Secretariat to implement U.N. resolutions on the question of Palestine and the Middle East.

He said this referred to resolutions that the U.S. had consistently opposed and voted against.

Mr. Keyes asked for a separate vote on this paragraph, which was then approved by 108 votes to two — the United States and Israel — with 24 abstentions.

Arab health committee to bolster cooperation

TUNIS (Petra) — A pan-Arab health committee formed by the Arab Health Ministers Council has decided to bolster inter-Arab cooperation in strengthening health information and health education throughout the Arab countries, according to Dr. Moham-

ammad Sharim, head of Health Education Department at the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Sharim, who represented Jordan at the committee meeting,

said that the committee will organise seminars in all Arab states in which health specialists will take part to help spread health awareness and will work towards establishing a special training centre to train personnel in health education.

This centre will have its headquarters at Yamouk University in Irbid, in accordance with the committee decision, Dr. Sharim said.

Jordan participates in housing ministers meeting

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in a meeting by the executive board of Arab housing and reconstruction ministers which opened in Tunis Thursday.

Housing Corporation Director Shafiq Zawaidh who is attending the meeting said that the delegates are studying ways to support housing projects of Arab inhabitants under Israeli rule, and the possibility of assigning seats for students from the occupied Arab territories at Arab universities to study construction and other related specialisations.

Other topics on the conference's agenda as Zionist settlement programmes in the occupied Arab lands and settlement and housing projects in Arab countries, Mr. Zawaidh said.

The board recommendations will be submitted to a general meeting of Arab housing and reconstruction ministers, he added.

The board comprises delegates from Iraq, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria and Jordan.

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TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

06:00 News
06:25 Children's Programme
06:35 English Teaching
06:45 First Aid
06:55 News
07:00 Cartoons
07:10 News
07:20 Children's Programme
07:30 Local Programme
07:40 News
07:50 Programme Review
08:00 News
08:10 News in Arabic
08:20 Arabic Series
08:30 Programme Review
08:40 News in Arabic
08:50 Film
09:00 Film
09:10 Film
09:20 Film

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
18:10 News in French
18:20 News in Hebrew
18:30 Comedy: Sorry
18:40 Saturday Variety Show
18:50 News in English
22:15 Feature Film: Jane Doe. Karen Valentine

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& party on 95.60 KHz, SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
08:45 Morning Show
09:00 News Summary
09:15 Pop Session
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23:00 News Summary
23:15 Pop Session
23:30 News Summary
23:45 Pop Session
24:00 News Headlines

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Hand painted olive wood boxes and caskets by Victor Lepejain at the British Council Centre until Nov. 11.

* Plastic Art Exhibition by Mr. Omer Bassoul at the Royal Cultural Centre. It runs until Nov. 12.

FILM

* Children film entitled "Max und Moritz" (German) at 4:30 p.m. at the Goeite Institute.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre . Tel. 6610267
American Centre . 44371
American Centre Library . 41520
British Council . 36147-8
French Cultural Centre . 97009
Goethe Institute . 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre . 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre . 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre . 39777
Hayn Arts Centre . 665195
Husseini Youth City . 667181
Y.W.C.A. . 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. . 6642251
Ammann Municipal Library . 36111
University of Jordan Library . 843555

MUSEUMS

Palatium Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al-Qaf (Cliffed 100). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century oriental artists. Museum, Jabal Al-Lawleh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

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FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 532310, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:50 Cairo (MS)
07:30 Amman (RJ)
07:45 Amman (RJ)
08:45 Amman (RJ)
09:45 Jeddah (RJ)
09:55 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15 Dhaka (RJ)
10:20 Laraca, Damascus (RJ)
10:30 Beirut (RJ)
10:45 Riyadh (RJ)
10:55 Kuwait (RJ)
11:45 Singapore (RJ)
12:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:40 Kuwait (KU)
16:00 Baghdad (IA)
17:25 Athens (RJ)
17:30 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
18:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)
18:50 Cairo (RJ)
19:45 Kuwait (RJ)
20:40 Rome, Damascus (AZ)
20:50 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
22:20 Cairo (MS)
11:45 Baghdad (RJ

Three die, four injured in car, truck collision

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three people were killed and four others were injured Thursday as a result of an accident between an Iraqi trailer and a private car carrying Jordanian plates. The accident took place at Mubamadih, a road some 25 kilometres north of Ma'an in the south of Jordan.

Meanwhile, the weekly statistical bulletin issued by the Public Security Department said that 744 other-road accidents occurred throughout Jordan in the past week claiming six lives and injuring 86 other persons. The bulletin said that 106 of these accidents occurred in Amman.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Obeidat forms delegation to inspect student conditions in Romania

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat has decided to form an official Jordanian delegation to visit Romania to inspect the conditions of Jordanian students who are pursuing their education at Romanian universities and educational institutes. The delegation, which will leave for Romania on Nov. 27, comprises Jordan Medical Council Secretary General Mustafa Al Barmawi, the dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Jordan, Dr. Fuad Al Sayegh, and the director of examinations at the Ministry of Education, Dr. Ahmad Al Bashayreh.

Cabinet appoints tax, SSC directors

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet has appointed Mr. Salman Tarawneh as director general of the Income Tax Department and Dr. Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan as director general of the Social Security Corporation (SSC). Mr. Tarawneh, who served as assistant director of the Income Tax Department, will succeed Dr. Abdullah Nsour who had been appointed Minister of Planning in the recent government reshuffle. Dr. Farhan, who had served as director of the Cities and Villages Development Bank, will succeed Mr. Farhi Obeid who became minister of transport in the reshuffle.

Aqaba-Cairo flight to operate from Nov. 15

AMMAN (Petra) — A weekly flight between Aqaba and Cairo will be operated as of Nov. 15 by Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline. The prices for this route have been fixed at JD 50 for first class and JD 38 for tourist class. This route will be the first international regular air route taking off from Aqaba.

Jordan to attend nuclear accelerator talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the eighth conference on the use of nuclear accelerators for research and industry scheduled to be held in Texas in the USA from Nov. 10 to Nov. 15. Jordan will be represented at this conference by Dr. Issa Kibbeisi, a professor of nuclear physics at the University of Jordan, who will submit a research paper to the conference.

FRRC to host medical symposium

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day medical symposium on infection control in hospitals will be held at Farah Royal Rehabilitation Centre (FRRC) on Nov. 17. The seminar, organised by the FRRC in cooperation with the West German government, aims to consolidate medical cooperation between Jordan and West Germany. Taking part in the symposium will be a number of doctors from both the private and public sectors.

Commerce chamber receives invitation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce has received an invitation from the Arab-Greek chamber of commerce and development to take part in the eighth Salonik international fair for foodstuffs, drinks and equipment scheduled to be held on May 8. The federation has circulated the invitation to all members in the Jordanian chambers of commerce.

No bilharzia or typhoid, ministry says

AMMAN (Petra) — A Ministry of Health spokesman announced that the country is free from bilharzia and typhoid according to records from hospitals and medical centres all over the country. He said that the ministry's medical teams are launching vaccination and spraying campaigns to maintain control over diseases.

Papandreu arrives today for talks

(Continued from page 1)

to Jordanian students.

Q: How much the volume of trade between Jordan and Greece?

A: The 1983 statistics show that the volume of trade between Jordan and Greece was about JD 21.5 million — mostly Greek supplies of cement, wheat, chemicals, plastics, wood products, paper, iron and steel products, aluminium, domestic electrical appliances, cooling and freezing equipment etc.

In return, we import from Jordan phosphates, potash chemicals and mineral fertilisers and in 1983 Greek imports from Jordan reached JD 1 million.

Q: It was reported that the Greek government has not been successful in attracting Arab investments in Greece. What are your comments on the issue?

A: As you know Greece has a poor economy, and, as all businessmen aim at a high margin of profit, they would rather invest in other European countries with a stronger economy. Jordanian investors, as individuals, tend to invest in real estate more than anything else, which I don't consider as business investment.

Q: What are your expectations out of Prime Minister Papandreu's visit to Jordan, in terms of enhancing relations between Jordan and Greece on one hand and the Graeco-Arab relations on the other?

A: We hope that this first visit of our prime minister would lead to better relations between Greece and Jordan and between Greece and the Arab World. Mr. Papandreu will hold official talks with Prime Minister Obeidat and

other government officials. Hopefully, these talks will strengthen our relations and will contribute to a better understanding between the two peoples and would increase our economic and cultural cooperation.

Mr. Papandreu has already visited Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Libya, and he will visit Jordan and Syria as part of a mission to enhance the relations with the Arab World.

Q: Who is accompanying Prime Minister Papandreu in his visit to Jordan and what are the topics to be discussed with Jordanian officials?

A: The Greek delegation arriving Saturday will comprise of Prime Minister Papandreu, alternate Foreign Minister Karlos Papoulas, alternate Minister of National Economy Kostas Vaitos, the under-secretary of the prime minister and the government spokesman, Dimitris Maroulas, Director of the Prime Minister's Diplomatic Office Christos Mahairas, Ambassador and Director of Middle East Affairs Dep-

Israel hints at action

(Continued from page 1)

Monday. The two sides Thursday agreed to ignore differences in procedural interpretations. Lebanon sees the U.N. as the chair of the talks which it says are in the framework of the 1949 armistice commission. The Israelis say the armistice is dead and that the U.N. is playing host, not chairman.

Lebanese officials have warned against a unilateral Israeli withdrawal, saying a civil war bloodbath could result.

artment Constantine Georgiou, Mr. Papandreu's Economic Advisor Yanis Papanikolaou and other 15 government officials.

The delegation will meet with His Majesty the King, Prime Minister Obeidat, Foreign Minister Masri as well as Minister of Industry and Trade Anani.

The delegation will discuss several issues regarding certain planned joint ventures between the Greek and Jordanian governments, possibilities of signing an aircraft maintenance contract and connecting Aqaba with Piraeus with ferry services, and cooperation in air transport.

The Middle East conflict will be high among the political topics to be discussed.

Q: What is the Greek government's attitude towards the restoration of relations between Jordan and Egypt?

A: We have not adopted any official stand so far, but we consider any rapprochement among Arab countries as a step towards Arab unity and strength and Greece is in favour of such moves.

In a related development, the Israeli Foreign Ministry announced that its ambassador in Cairo met Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali for the first time Thursday and had earlier in the week conferred with Foreign Minister Ahmad Esmat Abdul-Maguid.



FRIENDSHIP TALKS: His Majesty King Hussein conferred at the royal court Thursday with Mr. Takio Nakati (second right), president of the Japanese-Arab Friendship Society. The audience was attended by Japanese ambassador to Jordan Akira Nakayama (left). Mr. Nakati arrived in Amman on Wednesday for a visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

First woman stands for municipal election seat

SALT (J.T.) — For the first time in Jordan, a woman has decided to run for the coming municipal elections to be held in Fuheis on Nov. 15. Fairouz Al Khouri has announced that she will run for the elections along with 19 other candidates who seek seats in the new nine member council which will be in office for the coming four years.

Balqa District Governor Jamal Al Momani Thursday announced the names of the candidates who will run and said that polling will be run from seven in the morning until five in the evening and will be held in four different centres. In Tafleh, southern Jordan, District Governor Mohammad Talhouni said that 28 candidates have registered as candidates for the coming municipal election. The candidates, organised in five blocs, are seeking seats in the nine-member council.

Abdul Jaber prepares study on banking

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jaber called on the banking sector in Jordan to focus on the social aspects of work by supporting sports activities, scientific researches and by establishing strong ties with universities and community colleges. Dr. Abdul Jaber also called on Jordanian banks and institutions to ensure the continuity of work for women after marriage and to provide nurseries for their children.

Dr. Abdul Jaber also called for attracting highly qualified people and employing them in the banking sector. Dr. Abdul Jaber's suggestions were contained in a study he prepared about the labour force in the banking sector for the years from 1982 until 1986.

Sharaf to visit Paris for information talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Information Minister Laila Sharaf will go to Paris Sunday on an official visit expected to last three days.

In a statement to the Arabic language daily Al Ra'i, the minister said she is making the visit at the invitation of her French counterpart to discuss information exchange between Jordan and France, cooperation on promoting

the French language programme at Jordan Television and coordinating information and press contacts between the two sides.

During the visit she said that she will hold meetings with the French minister of culture and might hold a press conference. Mrs. Sharaf also expects to tour a number of press and information media centres in the country.

Police investigate murder

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian citizen has shot and killed a person, identified only as A.M. Kh. according to the local Arabic Daily Sawt Al-Shaab. The body of the victim, who was killed in Wadi Seer in the outskirts of Amman, was rushed to the University of Jordan Hospital, the report said.

Well-placed sources said that the killer, committed the murder in revenge for the death of his father who was supposedly killed by

A.M. Kh. in Salt several years ago. The report also said that A.M. Kh. had been sentenced to eight years in prison for the murder. The police authorities are looking for the murderer.

Meanwhile a 20 year old girl, identified as N.H.A., was admitted Thursday to the University of Jordan Hospital after being wounded by a sharp tool. The concerned authorities are also investigating this case.

Biological conference urges financial support for research

AMMAN (J.T.) — The third scientific Arab conference on biological sciences has stressed the importance of seeking local and regional sources of finance to ensure the necessary support for scientific activities.

Speaking at the conclusion of the four-day conference, Dr. Rashad Al Natour, the conference's preparatory committee chairman, said that the conference stressed the importance of increasing financial and moral support to the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories and attracting Arab researchers by providing the facilities necessary for their return.

Participants also called for continuous contacts among Arab researchers through organising conferences and specialised seminars

and joint research projects. Dr. Natour also said participants stressed the importance of linking scientific research to the requirements and problems of the Arab World by employing local researchers in developmental plans. They also called for encouraging Arab researchers to spread scientific awareness in their communities through the various information media.

The third scientific conference was officially opened Saturday at the University of Jordan by Health Minister Kamel Al Ajlouni who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Taking part in the conference were 130 participants representing 12 Arab countries.

Music to satisfy Jordan's many different tastes

By Jean Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Classical, pop, jazz, disco, rock — including acid, hard, progressive, metal, punk and other quizzical rocks are among the many labels one can put on music styles. Satisfying so many different tastes is not an easy task, especially when only one broadcasting channel is all that is available: that of Radio Jordan's F.M. station foreign programme.

In the United States for instance, the countless F.M. stations make it possible for each to be specialised in a given style and to easily please their listeners. In Houston, Texas, one station, with a name made up of half a dozen initials impossible to pronounce or remember, broadcasts Beatles songs exclusively.

In Jordan we have to do with just one station and it is doing pretty well. "Concert Hour" is there for classical music lovers, the "Morning Show" and "Evening Show" fill our ears with pop music. "Jazz Hour" with Raja Kawa is one of the most interesting programmes and up to international standards. Timing is often right, like "Listeners' Choice" transmitted on Friday mornings when teenagers are at home. For those wishing to listen to uninterrupted music, "Pop Session" provides an ideal ground.

Programmes are presented by Jordanian, British and American young people, most of them talented. The voices of Andy Cooper, Ghada Haddadin, Abia Zughayer and Rima Azar have now

become part of our environment. Programme content is satisfactory enough, and even if eventually one dislikes this or that programme, it does not matter that much for once again the name of the game is to please the greatest number of listeners. It is also worth mentioning that we are generally provided with up-to-date material.

Although the technical quality of the transmission is usually quite good, problems such as sudden variations of output level, sound distortion, interference or unpleasant stereo-mono switching occur sometime. This could and should be easily avoided.

MUSIC REVIEW

Comparatively, Jordan Television (JTV) music programmes have not been up to the same standards, but are catching up it seems. We have been watching nice and new tapes recently, like the "Champs Elysees" show in the French programme and the last "Saturday Variety Show" which introduced the "Montreux, 1984 Festival" featuring pop groups we rarely have the chance to see on JTV. That was quite a change from the old "Pop in Germany" tapes which have been played many times each. Why wouldn't JTV prepare a music programme to be presented by a local telecaster as on the radio? This would improve the viewers contact with the network. A lot remains to be done as far as classical music is concerned on television, but it's getting better all the time.

Foreign relations committee discusses U.S.-Israeli ties

Education team recommends Parliament should reject admission exam regulation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament's education committee has recommended that parliament reject newly-introduced regulations requiring students to pass an entrance examination in order to be eligible for secondary academic courses.

According to the committee's rapporteur, Fawzi Tu'eimeh, the committee met and discussed the issue in the presence of Education Minister Hikmat Al Saket and the secretary general of the Ministry of Education, Abdul Latif Arabiyat.

The proposed admission examination for the secondary education cycle initiated opposition from members of the public and educationalists although the Ministry of Education considers the

measure necessary to meet the requirement for skilled workers. Education Minister Hikmat Al Saket earlier said that the examination aims to achieve justice amongst students and to link education with development. However, concerned parents have been campaigning against the decision which last week sparked a heated debate on the issue.

House condemns Israeli bias
The House's foreign relations

committee has recommended that the government condemn U.S. policy which is biased towards Israel and Washington's unlimited political, military and economic support for the Zionist state.

Mr. Rizk Al Bataineh, the committee's chairman, said that the committee recommended that the government deplore statements by U.S. officials and Congress that urge the U.S. administration to move the Israeli embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The committee has also demanded a severance of diplomatic and trade ties with any country that moves its embassy to Jerusalem, Mr. Bataineh said.

The session in which the committee adopted its recommendations was attended by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

JEA plans to supply four more villages with power

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) will, during the second half of this month, supply electricity to the villages of Dalagha, Wadi Musa, Al Nawafleh and Jelwakh in Ma'an Governorate and will link them to the National Transmission Grid.

JEA's Aqaba District Manager Majed Al Qawasmeh said that the Wadi Musa area is currently supplied with electricity through special diesel generators while the other three villages will be receiving electricity for the first time. He also pointed out that 7,500 citizens will benefit from the electrification of the four villages.

He also added that the electrification of the four villages is a part of the south rural electrification project under which 33 villages in Ma'an, Shoubak, Tafleh and Karak areas are being supplied with electricity. The JD 2 million project from which 25,000 people will benefit is being carried out by a German and local companies, Mr. Qawasmeh said.

The spokesman said that it was difficult at first to control the fire, and there was a fear the tanker would explode anytime due to the pressure caused by the high temperature. Meanwhile, police patrols immediately arrived at the scene of the accident to organise the flow of traffic and to cordon off the accident area from onlookers who gathered at the site.

The spokesman said that it was

Civil Defence combats petrol tanker, store fires

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two large fires broke out Thursday; one in a petrol tanker truck near the Ministry of Interior and another in the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) stores in Wihdat, but no one was hurt, officials at the Civil Defence Department said.

A petrol tanker, which had just finished delivering a load at the Innab petrol station, caught fire while the driver was manoeuvring his vehicle out of the narrow street near the station. Due to the difference in levels between the station cement base and the street, the tanker slightly overturned spilling considerable quantities of the flammable liquid on the driver's chamber and the running engine.

The tanker caught fire at 2:05 p.m. and civil defence engines at a nearby station rushed to the scene of the fire to bring it under control. The tanker driver escaped unhurt, after jumping from the vehicle immediately after it caught fire. The fire then expanded to the rest of the vehicle while two cars parked at the petrol station also caught fire but no one was hurt, a spokesman for the Civil Defence Department (CDD) told the Jordan Times.

The spokesman said that it was

difficult at first to control the fire, and there was a fear the tanker would explode anytime due to the pressure caused by the high temperature. Meanwhile, police patrols immediately arrived at the scene of the accident to organise the flow of traffic and to cordon off the accident area from onlookers who gathered at the site.

The rescue task was led by CDD Director Brigadier Khaled Tarawneh. Mayor of Amman Abdul Ra'ouf Rawabdeh also rushed to the scene together with Amman Police Chief General Ghazi Jarar.

Less than one hour later, another fire broke out at the UNRWA stores in Wihdat causing large losses of materials and goods stored there. Captain Ali Khreisat told the Jordan Times. The fire destroyed 250 large bags of sugar, rice, milk powder and other foodstuffs in the store which Captain Khreisat described as badly kept. The fire also destroyed most of the store's fixtures.

Captain Khreisat said that the fire extinguishers inside the building were not in order which indicates the irresponsibility of the store's keepers. He also said the civil defence fire extinguishers controlled the fire before it reached tanker of gasoline and diesel stored there, thereby avoiding much worse damage.

Expert calls for Arab-African unity to counter Israeli infiltration plans

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Middle East and Africa are increasingly becoming an area of superpower and international conflict, professor of African politics in the Institute of African and Ancient Studies at the University of Khartoum, warned in an interview with the Jordan Times.

Professor Mohammad Bashir, who is on a several day visit to Jordan, said that more efforts should be focused on Arab-African cooperation to counter the Israeli "infiltration in Africa."

Prof. Bashir said there are 5,000 Israeli experts in Africa operating under different organisations besides the 150,000 Jews in South Africa "who formulate the biggest support group of the white minority apartheid regime after the United States," he added.

"The philosophy of apartheid in South Africa is very similar to the Israeli philosophy vis-a-vis the Arab population," he said. "South Africa is a white settler group recognised by Britain, an imperial power, in 1910 and Israel was recognised by the same power through the Balfour declaration in 1917."

Prof. Bashir said that Israel has succeeded in infiltrating into Africa through all the U.S. support it receives. "Zaire has ended its boycott of Israel and resumed diplomatic and economic relations with the Jewish state. The same step was also taken by Liberia," the Sudanese professor said, adding that Israel is currently increasing its activities in Kenya, the Ivory Coast and Nigeria.

Israeli objectives

Nigerian leaders visited Israel frequently in the last two years "giving concessions to obtain arms from the Jewish state," he said. "Israel has succeeded in distorting Arab-African relations to achieve economic and military objectives. Describing Israel as the 'agent of the United States in the area,' Prof. Bashir said the Jewish state promoted African interstate and instate conflicts. Citing examples,

he said Israel encouraged conflict within Nigeria as well as the north-south conflict in Sudan.

The institute of African and Ancient Studies at the University of Khartoum specialises in strategic studies on Sudan in the first place, and on Africa and the Middle East. The institute teaches about the Palestinian issue and conducts research on Zionism and apartheid.

One of the latest research works by Prof. Bashir was a study on Israel's cooperation with South Africa. He describes the institute as an "interdisciplinary body."

Raising the issue of the Ethiopian Falasha Jews, Prof. Bashir indicated that there are 10,000 Falasha Jews living as refugees in Sudan and that Israel is now stepping up its activities in efforts to resettle them in the occupied Arab territories. He did not elaborate whether the Sudanese government would do anything about it. However, he continued, "I want to draw the attention of Arab governments to this very much clouded issue."

Prof. Bashir has published a book called "Terremedia" which deals historically with Arab-African relations "from a futuristic point of view." He reviewed the problems caused by the lack of cooperation and the areas ignored in the field of cultural exchange and information.

Prof. Bashir was received Thursday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. He earlier met with officials in the University of Jordan to discuss ways of cooperation between his institute and the Institute of Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan.

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Could Morocco trust Qadhafi?

By Musa Keilani

ARAB OBSERVERS are excited in their astonishment that King Hassan II signed a unity treaty with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. Recent reports revealed that Col. Qadhafi is not willing to honour his commitments. He resumed contacts with Moroccan opposition leaders and re-established fund distribution to Polisario members. His mercurial behaviour is reminiscent of his stance in June 1982 when he abandoned the Palestinians during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, after pretending to be their champion for 12 years.

Undoubtedly, the Moroccan's good-intentionally hoped to get Libya's cooperation in putting an end to Polisario fighting against the Moroccan Army in the Western Sahara. The king's overture to Libya also had a larger purpose. It was an effort to convince Qadhafi that Libya's future would be best served by policies of moderation in an Arab political framework, including an end to open hostilities against Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

King Hassan mediated in the subsequent agreement reached

between Col. Qadhafi and French President Mitterrand for a mutual withdrawal of Libyan and French forces from Chad. Till now, Libya has 5,000 soldiers in Ouza province in north Chad as well as 3,000 soldiers in the "Islamic Legion," which is trained and maintained by Libya.

Arab observers, aware of Col. Qadhafi's long history of subversion against his neighbours wonder whether he will live up to his word with King Hassan as well as with President Mitterrand. They notice continuing subsidies

reaching the Polisario fighters from Libyan sources. It is noticed as well that Libyan troops ignored the simultaneous withdrawal from Chad and remained behind.

There are many signs that the "new" Qadhafi, as projected by the Moroccan diplomacy is the same "old" Qadhafi who subsidises coup d'etats and plans assassination plots against opponents of his megalomaniac ambitions. The Libyan plan to airbomb Aswan Dam — as revealed by the Libyan pilot who defected — as well as the foiled attempt to

occupy Al-Haram Al-Sharif in Mecca by Libyan pilgrims, indicate that there has been no change on Col. Qadhafi's conspiratorial methods.

It is befitting to recall the speech delivered last month by Prime Minister Abdul-Salam Jallod, at the emergency session of the Arab Student and Youth Organisation held in Tripoli. Jallod emphasised that the role of Arab youth is to defy the bourgeois Arab regimes, especially those which are "funding" the "Zionist-American train of death". This

speech is to be linked with the 2,000 silencer pistols, explosives and machine-guns which ex-CIA agent Edwin Wilson admitted in November 1982, he had illegally shipped to Libyan officials from Houston.

Nonetheless, if history is any guide, our Moroccan friends would be well-advised to recall the prophet's saying, "A true Muslim is never sown from the same burrow twice".

The record of 15 years casts a long shadow over the colonel's sparkling new image.

'PLO compromise on Israel is a hectic step'

By Shafiq Al-Hout

The following speech was delivered on Aug. 22 at the international meeting of NGOs (non-governmental organisations) on the question of Palestine, held at the Geneva Palace of Nations under the auspices of the United Nations.

Shafiq Al-Hout is one of the historical founders of Fateh, a member of the PLO's and Fateh's higher institutions, and a statesman close to Yasser Arafat. This text, which was presented after the series of statements by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat himself on the need for a two-state solution, is further proof that a basic change has occurred in the PLO's policies towards the Israeli question.



Shafiq Al-Hout

and enjoy what is a divine right for all people in this world, that is, sovereignty over their own territories. If I have to elaborate about that then I would really be misbehaving in such a conference with such representation.

In spite of this, there is a need for some elaboration because we have been facing a hell of a campaign by Zionist circles and by the imperialistic media, which have insisted on portraying the Palestinians as terrorists. I would not even touch on that double-standard definition of the word "terrorist". I am very proud to be a PLO terrorist as long as I am fighting for my freedom, for the restoration of my usurped territories and my legitimate and national rights.

In the media in the West we have always been referred to as one of two things: either terrorists or refugees. As an example, in the Al Ansar concentration camp in South Lebanon, when the Israeli authorities were counting the prisoners, they used to write their names and nationality — if the prisoner were Syrian they would write "Syrian", if the prisoner were Egyptian they would write "Egyptian", and so forth. But when they came to a Palestinian, after the word "nationality" they would put "terrorist" — so that is a nationality.

So in the media, we are looked upon either as terrorists or as refugees. But as you have all noticed through the years of your cooperation and solidarity with our cause, we are very ordinary people. We have terrorists, we have artists, we have painters, we have all kinds of people. So, the point that I would like to stress is, as a matter of fact, just to draw your attention to something that you

know. In my opinion (and it should be in world opinion), the moment the PLO joined the United Nations, accepted to be a member with observer status in October 1974, abiding by the charter and resolutions implicitly and explicitly, it was obvious that the Palestinian leadership had accepted a political option.

But this, in the history of the Palestinian people's struggle was a great concession. A position that only the PLO leadership was able to adopt — to give up part of the whole of Palestine, which was once upon a time an Arab-Palestinian territory, and to accept a compromise — was a heroic step, a great decision and a turning point in the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Thank God that my father died in 1970 — had he been alive in 1974 he would not have received me back in Beirut after my joining the delegation to the U.N. He would not have understood how his son could have given up Jaffa, which was his father's, his, and my own place of birth. Yet, the Palestinian leadership was not giving up historical rights but being aware of the realities of this historical era: the balance of power of global strategies, and the new facts that one cannot really ignore created in Israel. I was surprised to hear today that my friend Amnon Zichroni was born in Tel Aviv. I was born maybe two blocks away from where he was born, in Jaffa.

Accepting membership in the United Nations is quite indicative, a step which shows that the Palestinians are seriously looking for a political solution based on justice — and not absolute justice — our friend from Israel today was decent and nice, saying that he would like to see peace and justice, but not absolute justice.

So we have already fulfilled this because the justice we have accepted in the U.N. is really not absolute justice by any means. But it was the form of justice which the international community has agreed to consider as the rights of the Palestinian people, and they really are the axiomatic rights of any human being: self-determination, the right to return, and the right to have a state of our own.

In 1968 Fateh, the biggest organisation in the PLO, adopted the idea of a democratic secular state, which was rejected; and we have understood the reasons behind this rejection. But I still insist as

Shafiq Al-Hout, the Palestinian man, not as a part of the PLO, that it is a vision I would like to see in Palestine. I mean, I do not like to be disappointed, I want to remember the dreams and the practices that I have seen in other societies, like the United States and Canada and other countries that are secular states and democratic states in which I have seen people living beautifully and happily. But, it is up to our next door neighbours, they have their entitled right to self-determination.

If they want a pure Jewish state it is up to them, and I hope that the new generation in Israel will be more democratic and will think in much broader terms than theological terms and discriminative terms.

In 1977 we were alone: even the Arabs did not support us at that moment, when the Soviet-U.S. communique was issued in October in the U.N. by Cyrus Vance and Andrei Gromyko, a document which is composed of two lines, one referring to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the other referring to Israel's right to exist in safe boundaries. So I think this is another signal from the PLO which indicates its sincere interest for finding a solution based on justice which could be reached through political negotiations.

In 1976 the PLO, with the help of a group from the non-aligned countries, drafted a resolution to the Security Council, the political substance of which was a very balanced draft resolution with reference to the Palestinian people's rights as described and defined by the U.N. and, again, the right of Israel to exist safely and happily. But this has been vetoed by that very, very, dear friend of Israel, the United States of America, which in my opinion is the greatest enemy of the Israeli people, and this will be observed in the future. If the U.S. were a real friend, it should have acted with Israel in such a way to make Israel's leadership think of other options, not of achieving supreme power.

In 1982 we accepted, with the rest of the Arab group, the Arab peace initiative at the Arab Conference which took place in Fez. Later on, in 1983, Chairman Arafat in his address to the International Conference on the Question of Palestine in Geneva, called upon the participants to call

for an International Conference on the Question of Palestine based on U.N. resolution relevant to the question of Palestine. And two or three weeks ago there was a very elaborate initiative from the Soviet Union, and I assume that everybody here has read that initiative in which there are at least a lot of answers to questions sometimes raised before the PLO about the future of Israel and its right to exist. This initiative has again been supported by the Palestinian Liberation Organisation.

Now, if this is not enough to prove that the PLO and the Palestinians behind it are sincere about this, I do not know what proof we can offer you. But I would like to ask one question: in opposition to what all I have stated, in terms of the positions, communiques, and initiatives that we have supported, what has the other side offered us? What have the Israelis offered? What has the responsible superpower, the United States of America, offered? Somebody might remind me of Reagan's plan, but I do not think that even Reagan himself was serious about it. I am sure he knew that it was going to be rejected because he did not dare to include in it the right for self-determination — something that Mr. Reagan, as president of a superpower, feels he has an entitled right to deny people.

Nevertheless, we are not intimidated, despite the frustrations, in spite of the wars that have been waged in conspiracy against our people, the thousands of casualties, the dispersion of our people travelling over seas here and there. I am sure that our people are going to continue their struggle, including the armed struggle, and all the kinds of struggle possible and legitimate, so that we achieve a final everlasting settlement based on peace and justice.

I think through this struggle march, we are not only trying to save our people. Believe it or not, if we ever succeed, we would be saving the future of the children and newly born Israelis as well, saving them from something inevitable. It sounds to me an inevitable thing to be raised to go to a slaughterhouse of the serial wars of the Arabs and the Israelis. We want to live in peace, with decency, with dignity, with sovereignty.

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Indecent EC role

THE CONFIRMATION by a Spanish parliamentarian that his country might discuss the possibility of opening an embassy in Tel Aviv clearly indicates that Arab protests and appeals to Spain have failed to make Spain change its plans. It also reveals the dimensions of this evil deal which the European Community concluded with Spain to join the EC in return for establishing Spanish relations with Israel.

It is noteworthy that at a time when the EC concludes such a suspicious deal with Spain, it does not embark on any serious role to convince Israel to accept the establishment of a just peace in the area and to recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, but instead the community has started "reminding" Arabs of the Venice Declaration as if it had done everything it should do in that declaration.

Arabs should realise that the EC countries have played a biased role which does not reflect good intentions when it linked Spain's enrollment in the EC to establishing relations with Israel.

The EC role should be carefully evaluated by Arabs and should be a lesson for them so that they will not continue to run after mirage. The EC countries have stabbed Arabs in the back by linking Spain's membership in the EC with its setting up diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv.

Had it not been for the deteriorating Arab situation and American biased and aggressive attitudes towards the Arab cause, the EC would not have played this evil role and could not have practised blackmail against Arabs.

Sawt Al Shaab: Trying a new trick?

WITH THE start of military negotiations between Israel and Lebanon in Naqura, the most surprising and suspicious thing is Israel's approval of the talks between both parties to be held under U.N. auspices and within the framework of the truce agreement between the two sides.

The relinquishment by Israel of its pre-conditions, poses many queries about whether Israel has obtained verbal promises or has been given assurances, negatively affecting the freedom of the people in South Lebanon and the independence of Lebanon, through the moves and contacts which preceded the Naqura negotiations.

The start of negotiations does not imply that Israel is really willing to totally withdraw from South Lebanon, or that the end of the Israeli existence in South Lebanon means the end of Israeli ambitions in that area which is rich with water resources.

It seems that through negotiations Israel wishes to achieve two goals, the first of which is escaping a war of attrition staged against its forces by the national Lebanese movement while the other is to maintain its political and security existence through a third party.

The most important objective for such an Israeli withdrawal is the attempt to absorb the state of tension among Israeli soldiers and Lebanese citizens who see in the Israeli existence in South Lebanon a futile and killing process. Furthermore the Israeli economy is no more capable of bearing the costs of Israeli existence in South Lebanon and the continuous state of alertness in the south.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Foreign initiatives last

IT WILL be dangerous for the Arabs to count on a new U.S. initiative to settle their Middle East problem although the president who initiated an earlier one has returned to the White House. It will be a great mistake to pin our hopes on the U.S., which has declared in advance that it is totally committed to help Israel carry out its ambitious aims in the Arab region. The Arabs should be very careful not to build false hopes, depending on the United States or Europe to settle their issue.

The Arabs realise that the U.S. is bound to Israel in a strategic alliance agreement, and the president who won the election has paid in advance to Israel millions of dollars in order to secure the votes of Jewish voters for his reelection. Also the promises he gave to Israel during the campaign should open the eyes of the Arabs on the real intentions of the United States over the coming four years.

Earlier U.S. policies in this region had caused a great rift in the Arab ranks and therefore Arab leaders should think first of building their own intrinsic force before looking to other nations.

Al Dustour: Reagan can advance

ON THE eve of his reelection as president of the United States Ronald Reagan has pledged to commit his administration to his proposals for settling the Middle East issue and reviving peace efforts towards achieving that end. The president can, if he so wishes, revive these efforts without going into much trouble and without losing more time by sending envoys to our region to examine the situation, as the other presidents did before.

The president is helped in his endeavours by the landslide victory which he achieved over Walter Mondale and the support of the Zionist lobby which he secured by offering Israel thousands of millions of dollars and more war-planes during the presidential campaign.

Sawt Al Shaab: We hope U.S. policy will change

THE LANDSLIDE victory which President Reagan achieved over his opponent Walter Mondale reflects the support of the American people and their endorsement of his domestic and foreign policies he had been employing over the last four years. President Reagan by now has acquired experience in handling foreign affairs and he is quite capable of handling the Middle East issue among other world problems.

We know that Washington has supported Israel and the president has promised total backing to Tel Aviv, promising the Zionists more aid and more war material. We also realise that the Reagan administration was behind many sufferings in the Arab region and behind the U.S. hostile policies towards the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular.

We know that Washington was behind the creation of new realities in our region and the strength of our enemy which continues to occupy Arab land and pursue arbitrary measures against our kinsmen. But we hope that the new era will offer the president more time to think and to reconsider his policies towards this region.

Spain's far right seeks comeback

By Luis Carliño

MADRID — Spain's extreme right-wingers are seeking a political comeback through a new party created two years after they lost their only parliamentary seat.

The first hint of such a move came with the publication in the far-right daily El Alcazar of a manifesto by 100 prominent supporters of General Francisco Franco. The manifesto called for a "grand national mobilisation" based on the principles that guided Gen. Franco's 36-year dictatorship.

The party, christened Spanish Integration Juntas (JEI), was formally launched on Oct. 17 at a news conference. El Alcazar's editor Antonio Izquierdo — whose surname, ironically, means "left" — was introduced as its leader. "Perhaps somewhere there are powerful forces, or someone is dreaming of grand ventures... but the manifesto opens an acceptable and possible path," El Alcazar said in a front-page editorial last week.

"All the rest, all that was done before, is becoming... too complicated, too costly and hardly effective."

Juntas leaders said they planned to invite major figures of the European far right, including Jean Marie Le Pen from France and Giorgio Almirante from Italy, to an inaugural rally on Nov. 20, the anniversary of Franco's death in 1975.

The manifesto embraces opposition to abortion and other issues

of the right largely espoused by the main opposition popular alliance — led by former Franco minister Manuel Fraga — and attempts to reconcile its authors' views with democratic vows required for legal registration.

It said the cortes (parliament) should be the highest law-making body of a new state built on the basis of "Spain's Roman Catholic reality". But it vowed to boost "natural representation organs" such as the family, town halls and trade unions.

Gen. Franco gave a veneer of plurality to his absolute rule through a single party, the movement, state-run unions and a rubber-stamp cortes elected partly by select heads of family.

"Our people is a sum of social categories defined by their different degrees of knowledge," the manifesto said. "This cannot be denied in the name of abstract egalitarianism."

Leaders of the JEI addressing the news conference said they believed in the constitutional monarchy instituted after Gen. Franco's death, but said they favoured Sixto de Bourbon — a rightist cousin of King Juan Carlos — to occupy the throne.

The king became anathema to true Francoists by taking a decisive stance for democracy when rebellious troops took the cortes hostage for 17 hours on Feb. 23, 1981.

The leaders of the abortive coup — Civil Guard Lt. Col. Antonio Tejero and army Generals Jaime Milans del Bosch and Alfonso Armada — are serving 30-year

jail sentences.

El Alcazar last year began a campaign for their release, including letters by active-duty officers calling them "men of honour" who tried to save Spain from disaster. The letters led to disciplinary sanctions.

The paper, owned by veterans of Gen. Franco's victorious forces in the 1936-39 civil war, conveys a daily image of Spain as a country ravaged by what it sees as the evils of democracy — from terrorism and crime to divorce and abortion or even the sight of a cabinet minister not genuflecting in church.

The comeback attempt led the press to look into funding of the new venture, and the weekly Cambio 16 said the JEI had some \$4 million contributed by businessmen and the Paraguay-based World Anti-Communist League.

Mr. Izquierdo, who refuses to grant press interviews, would not comment on this report.

The extreme right has no parliamentary representation since Blas Piñar, leader of the neo-fascist Fuerza Nueva (new force), lost his seat in the 1982 elections and dissolved the party.

Some liberal media depicted the launching of the JEI as part of a conspiracy timed to go off on Nov. 20. This would include a planned November rally against a church-opposed education law.

But Socialist government officials said they were not aware of any such scheme and told reporters that JEI's goal appeared to be the creation of a think tank rather than the regaining of a foothold in the cortes.

Rajiv's political skill on trial

By Chaitanya Kalbag

NEW DELHI — India's new Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, yet to win his spurs in government, has to quickly take a series of tough political decisions to consolidate his power.

He must end squabbles inside his ruling Congress (I) Party, decide by the end of this month on holding general elections due by January, and deal with a resurgent opposition given a new target by his lack of experience.

Rajiv, a 40-year-old former airline pilot, succeeds his assassinated mother as India's youngest leader less than four years after entering politics following the death of his younger brother Sanjay, Indira Gandhi's heir apparent, in a 1980 plane crash.

He inherits a party riven by bitter feuds between old Indira loyalists, young and disgruntled followers of Sanjay, and his own untied supporters.

Three weeks before Mrs. Gandhi was gunned down by two Sikh bodyguards, Rajiv, then top secretary-general of Congress (I), started work on a list of party candidates for the elections.

But after his mother's funeral Saturday and about 900 deaths in anti-Sikh violence across India, a new task must be his overriding priority — to hold the country together.

January.

Opposition leaders said he was unlikely to delay the polls.

But Congress (I) sources said some advisers were pushing for a constitutional amendment, possible because of the party's two-thirds majority in parliament, to delay the polls until he gets a firm grip on government.

Political analysts said Rajiv's key aides included a large number of managers and business executives who were with him at an exclusive north Indian private school.

They said the aides lacked grassroots experience of Indian politics — a major strength of Indira Gandhi who ruled for a total of 15 years.

Within Congress, Rajiv faces defiance from an old guard who resent the newcomers' influence. Last year, with Rajiv masterminding strategy, the party fared dismally in three state assembly elections — in Jammu and Kashmir in the north and Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in the south.

Before Mrs. Gandhi's assassination last Wednesday several opinion polls showed Congress had slipped sharply in voter support. Opposition groups were also within sight of a seat-sharing plan to push through a possible coalition for the elections.

"But Indira Gandhi's killing may turn out to be the biggest boost the Congress (I) needed, an emotional issue to swing disenchanted voters back," one analyst said.

Opposition leaders, however, say they are confident that the effects of the assassination will wear off.

"Rajiv has no administrative experience at all, and his elevation to the prime ministership is the country's biggest misfortune," said Charan Singh, president of the Dalit Kisan Mazdoor (unemployed; peasants and workers) Party.

"It's not easy to run a country like this, and Rajiv is too good, too good. Even if he wants to exploit his mother's murder, he will not succeed," he told Reuters.

Chandra Shekhar, president of the Janata Party, said Rajiv's first days in power did not inspire confidence.

"If his performance during the past four days is any indication, his re-election as prime minister will be a national calamity," he said.

Major opposition groups urged the government to use the military to quell the violence sweeping the country.

They warned: "As a result of these barbarous acts India as a nation may sink into oblivion."

"The trouble is that Rajiv is a virtual dark horse," said Lal Krishna Advani, secretary-general of the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party. "We don't know anything about his capabilities."

The exam is going to go through



Talking straight Marwan Muasher

SO MANY articles have been written about the new exam...

mination the Ministry of Education is going to hold, prior to the secondary stage, enabling it to channel 40 per cent of the male students and 30 per cent of the female students towards vocational training. In fact, the subject has been tackled from almost every angle, making it difficult for a writer like me, who is eager to write about it but wanting of new ideas to present.

It is not my intent here to list in detail the advantages and disadvantages of the new law, although I personally stand against it. As a matter of fact, of the tens of letters to the editors and articles that have appeared in our newspapers recently, I do not recall a single person in agreement with the new law, except for officials of the Ministry of Education. It is rather amusing to note here that the present minister of education, while vehemently defending the new law, was

himself the deputy minister, and hence one who must have had a large say, at the time when a similar examination was thought to be harmful and thus abolished a few years back.

Two arguments that have surfaced often, which I think alone make enough sense to stand against the new exam are these: One is that the exam is an outright violation both of the spirit and letter of the constitution, depriving Jordanians from freely choosing what careers to pursue. The second is that it is of the gravest consequences to society to still regard academic degrees as mere ways of obtaining jobs, instead of yet another method of developing the intellectual and mental capabilities of human beings with the purpose of upgrading the quality of life in society. As it stands, the new law serves to create a large class of semi-educated individuals, unable to cope with an ever expanding and increasingly complex society.

Again, this is not exactly why I am writing about the new exam today. I am writing because of a frustrating conviction within me, that no matter how many people are against the exam, no matter how many arguments are raised, nothing is going to happen. I have this feeling, and I hope to God I am wrong, that this exam is going to go through because the government wants it to go through. Forget all the cries against it. Forget the Jordanian society. This government, for some reason, does not appear as willing to even hear people's grievances against the exam.

There are serious questions that trouble me when I think of the ministry's decision. If the exam is so necessary to Jordanian society, it is natural to assume that extensive well-prepared studies were made

prior to such a decision. If so, where are they? Who made them? How come the government never published any statistical findings, forecasts, extrapolations, or any of the other usual scientific methods commonly used in such studies, to show the good effects of such an exam and the consequences if it is not to be administered? Frankly, when the Ministry of Education upholds and revokes this exam five times during the last eighteen years, I cannot help but question its ways in arriving at such important decisions. More bluntly, I cannot trust the ministry's judgement until it proves scientifically, not rhetorically, the merits of such a system.

The ministry's firm declarations that it is going through with the exam, while almost completely ignoring all objections, frightens me. Governments have throughout history regulated different aspects

of society to varying degrees, education included. But when I sense signs that the government is insensitive to opposite views, then the line becomes difficult to draw between what is considered essential for society and what is an infringement on individuals' rights.

One of the most natural places to debate such an important issue is Parliament. What frightens me even more is that Parliament is so far completely silent about the issue. It just could be that it is preparing for a debate, and that deputies are doing their own research on the subject. What I feel, and again hope is not true, is that somehow Parliament is reluctant to oppose the government on an issue that is obviously important to the latter. Perhaps Parliament feels it has a lot of legal battles with the government, and being too early in the game of defining where the

power of each body lies, it is willing to spare this one fight.

No two people in Jordan differ on the fact that the education system is due for a major overhaul. But such a feat requires many measures other than the suggested one. To impose such a law so abruptly, with no transition periods, no ample time for a debate on the issue, and I dare say, no convincing, scientific and comprehensive study on the subject, is no less than a slap in the face to the Jordanian society.

I write against the exam today, therefore, not only because of the many convincing arguments against it, but because it violates some basic concepts we so much claim to cherish and yet are constantly denied. These include our freedom of choice, our right to be heard, and our right to be informed. The ministry is denying Jordanians the right to an academic schooling, scuffling at

their efforts to voice their opinions, and withholding information on how it arrived at such a decision.

Many more articles will appear against the exam. Parliament will probably hold a session or two on the subject. In the end, the exam will go through, in all probability against the wishes of the majority. I say this in all pessimism, although I strongly believe that efforts at thwarting this new law should never stop. It is important for citizens to let their government know they care about decisions affecting their own lives, and that they are willing to do something to share in such decisions. This one battle might be lost, but if healthy debates continue to be ensued by citizens on other issues, the government or the Parliament can ill-afford to lend a deaf ear to their people's opinions on issues that concern this Jordanian society.

Is the world 'Hungry for change'?

"Third World" people starve while their nations produce more and more coffee, tea, cotton and cattle feed. Oxfam, the British volunteer agency, is leading from charity to politics, trying to change a world food system it thinks has gone badly wrong.

By John Tanner

LONDON — After 40 years' experience of famine relief, Oxfam, Britain's largest overseas aid charity, has launched a campaign to tackle the causes of hunger. A new report criticises the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a number of "myths" about why the "Third World" poor are poor.

The surprisingly political document, entitled "Cultivating Hunger", puts the blame for increased droughts and food shortages, but in the south of the country the farmers have enjoyed bumper crops of millet. Now southern farmers tell Oxfam workers that next year they will grow less millet and more cotton for export.

While the foodcrop sits in granaries until it can be sold, the government comes to buy the cotton as soon as it is harvested and pays a guaranteed price, claims the report.

Over the last 20 years, Africa has doubled its sugarcane output and quadrupled its tea production, while food production per head has declined. In India between 1974 and 1982, the land devoted to soybeans, mainly for export, increased fivefold. In the Philippines one hectare (acre) in

three grows food for export.

One result of the increase in cash cropping, insists Oxfam, has been to push peasant farmers in to the margins of deserts and forests or into city slums. As a result, deserts are expanding and tropical forests are being destroyed at an alarming rate.

Less than a year ago, Oxfam used a popular children's television programme here to raise \$2.5 million in a campaign which blamed much of current hunger in the "Third World" on unusual weather patterns. But now the charity seems to have rethought its position.

Every year in Britain there is a "disaster" called "winter" when "it gets so cold that almost nothing will grow for months on end", writes Mr. Twose. Because it is a recurring problem, we have learned how to cope with it: droughts or floods in the "Third World" are the same, he declares.

Oxfam found that in the recent Calcutta floods the better off, with brick houses, coped with the floods quite well; it was only for the poor, in huts, that the floods were disastrous.

Oxfam attacks the World Bank and the recent International Population Conference in Mexico City for drawing too much attention to "over-population".

It would make more sense to conclude that there are too many U.S. citizens "because they consume 35 per cent of the world's

resources even though they are only 6 per cent of the world's population," writes Mr. Twose. After all, the entire population of the "Third World" uses up only the same quantity of the planet's resources, including food, as does the United States.

Traditionally, British charities are slow to enter the political arena, restrained by the conservatism of the British public and by charity laws which assert that "the elimination of injustice" is not a charitable activity.

But Oxfam insiders say privately that with the proportion of funds devoted to famine relief rising from a fifth to a third last year, the sheer futility of pouring money and energy down this deepening hole, rather than attacking prime causes, encouraged them to publish this controversial report.

It suggests that the huge burden of debt repayment, now running at over \$100 billion a year, has been pushed "onto the shoulders of the world's poorest people."

"Through the IMF austerity conditions, through the transfer from food to export crops, through spiralling food prices and plummeting wages, the impact of the debt crisis is successfully trickling down to the poorest of the poor," adds John Clark, Oxfam's campaigns manager.

Oxfam hopes to win support from the British public for its uncompromising stand over the next five years. — Earthscan feature.



Ghana — A woman examines her disastrous 1984 harvest. While food production declines in many African nations, yields of tobacco, cotton, sugarcane and tea increase (Earthscan photo)

Saudi Arabia is to print millions of copies of the Koran

By Nicholas Moore
Reuter

RIYADH — In the sacred Islamic city of Medina, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia recently inaugurated a new printing press designed to furnish the Muslim world with seven million copies of the Holy Koran each year.

The venture, blending scholarship with the latest computerised printing techniques, reflects persistent efforts by Saudi Arabia to propagate the Islamic faith.

Official Saudi statements say the complex will cost nearly 500 million riyals (\$150 million) a year to operate.

Besides copies of the Koran in fine calligraphy, and translations for worldwide distribution, the centre will produce 30,000 sets of audio and video cassettes each year. A full set, consisting of readings and interpretations of the Holy Book by prominent divines, will play for 25 hours.

A special limited edition of the Koran will be made for ranking guests of the kingdom.

After cutting the tape and unveiling a plaque, King Fahd recalled in the visitors' book that "the glorious call for benediction and the welfare of all the world" went out from Medina after the Prophet Muhammad's flight there from Mecca 14 centuries ago.

In a later, unrehearsed speech, the king said for many years Muslims under colonial rule could not show their faith openly. But in the end, Islamic nations or those with Muslim majorities won independence in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

"Obviously there are heavenly and other religions in these countries. Some of them are quite contrary to Islamic teachings but Muslims did not treat them with violence as Muslims were treated under colonialism," he said.

"What is required of all Muslims... is the elucidation that Islam is a religion of tolerance, mercy, love and friendship between peoples."

While in Medina, King Fahd also launched an expansion pro-

ject at the Islamic University, the chief non-secular institution of higher education in Saudi Arabia where many of some 5,000 students are foreign Muslims.

A working alliance between the ruling house of Saud and the ulama (religious experts) of the austere Wahabi persuasion of Islam that now prevails throughout almost all Saudi Arabia was forged more than 200 years ago.

King Fahd had the reputation of being a moderniser and the driving force within the royal family behind the massive spending of oil earnings to transform the Saudi Arabian economy.

Yet, according to Riyadh-based diplomats, in the two years since he succeeded his elder brother Khalid as king he has also seemed equally vigorous in pursuit of policies likely to find favour with the conservative ulama.

The cause of Islam remains formally the chief Saudi Arabian foreign policy goal, the diplomats say, a fact which has implications for relations with the superpowers.

Bound in a strategic alliance with the United States, the royal family has been alarmed by pressures in Washington to move the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Islam's holiest shrine after Mecca and Medina.

"That would simply be a disaster," an official at the Saudi Foreign Ministry said privately. The same official stressed that religious considerations make it difficult for the royal family to contemplate diplomatic relations with Moscow.

Some years ago the Saudi position seemed to be that such relations could never be established with a power that had atheistic Communism as its official creed.

There have been recent hints that this is no longer necessarily the case, with some Saudi leaders saying that relations might be established between Moscow and the Saudi State, founded in the 1920s, "at an appropriate time."

European peace marchers trek across the United States

By Bill Miller
Reuter

ZELLENOPLE, Pennsylvania — A group of Europeans, haunted by the fear of nuclear destruction, is walking across the United States in a crusade pleading for world peace and disarmament.

Their journey, taking them at a pace of 32 kilometres a day through the autumn painted hills of Pennsylvania, will end on Nov. 14 with a demonstration in Washington.

Members of the group have changed during the march, with some returning to Europe and others taking their place.

But four marchers have walked the entire route since the trek

began earlier this year 4,200 kilometres to the west at a nuclear submarine base near Seattle, on the Pacific coast.

"We are bringing a message of peace to all Americans and we are letting them know that while our peace movement in Europe has been unfairly characterised as anti-American, we are not," Elvira Mothes, an artist and weaver from Moudon, Switzerland, told Reuters.

"We are pro-American and share the same fear of the military machine and nuclear destruction as Americans do," she said.

The marchers stay in church halls, college residences or private homes and deliver their message in talks at churches and schools.

They number about 20 at any time and paid their own way to the United States, but have relied almost exclusively on the generosity of strangers for food and

ministers and rabbis, have helped the marchers.

"Americans have been very friendly to us, including even those we meet along the way who do not

"We are bringing a message of peace to all Americans and we are letting them know that while our peace movement in Europe has been unfairly characterised as anti-American, we are not."

Ulrich Herbeck, 20, a student from Pforzheim, West Germany, said members of U.S. anti-nuclear groups, including many priests,

agree with our position," he said. In Zellenople, near Pittsburgh, Barbara Hoover, a 42-year-old mother of two, helped arrange places for the marchers to stay.

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Haddad races Toyota to Jordan rally victory

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — George Haddad, winner of the second round of the Jordan National Rally held in May, scored victory again Friday when he raced his turbo-charged Toyota Celica to a glorious triumph in the third and final round of the rally.

David Jepson, also behind the wheels of a Toyota identical to that of Haddad, was close behind, followed by George Khayyat in a Nissan 240 RS.

Jepson, however, retained his lead in the overall ratings for the 1984 championship since he had already built up a wide margin ahead of Haddad who was placed fourth before Friday's event.

Anthony Walker, who was putting up a tough challenge to Jepson, had to drop out of the rally towards the climax of the event because of an accident in the last special stage.

Jepson, co-driven by his wife Barbara, won the first round of the Jordan National Rally held in February and successfully finished the May round thereby adding to

his lead for the overall national championship.

Haddad, who had to abandon the 1984 Jordan Rally for the Middle East Rally Championship because of an accident, had Gordon Jones as his co-driver instead of his brother Nabil, whose arm suffered injuries in the July accident.

His Highness Prince Abdullah's Toyota Celica was one of the early casualties in Friday's event when it developed a major mechanical problem, forcing the Prince to abandon the rally in the third stage.

Disaster hit Ziad Bustani and his co-driver Samir Zeine when their Nissan 240 RS somersaulted. "We were too shocked to realise what had happened when the car

suddenly leapt and rolled over, but came back on four wheels again," said Zeine, describing their mishap. "Both of us could not talk for some time nor could we realise that the car was still running, because we had our breath knocked out of us."

"It was not until a further two kilometres that Ziad could even talk and by then we realised that the steering column was totally damaged."

Bustani was immediately hospitalised and it was reported that he did not suffer any major injuries.

The Aguilar family, Haile and Teresita and their sons Fitz and Gonzalo, finished the rally without mishap — the husband-wife team in a Renault Giordini and the sons in a Datsun 110.

The first-ever woman Jordanian team to take part in a rally, Randa Nabulsi and Alida Orfali, drove their Lada Niva 1600 to the finishing point although their placing was the last.

Mithkal Asfour's Volvo 244 had to drop out, because of an accident, but no injuries were reported.

Hamed Ghazi and Nabil Dabbas, in an Open Manta, had to quit the rally in the third special stage when the rear axle of their car broke. "We were doing considerably well when the mishap struck," said Ghazi, who has been participating in almost all car rallies in Jordan.

Suhail Marar and Fawzi Sawalha successfully reached the finishing point in their Toyota Corolla as did Hassan Alaeddin and Mohammad Shaban in their BMW 320.



Queen Noor is presented with Egypt's Al Ahli shield by the club's president Mr. Hussein Shahadeh Thursday at the opening ceremony of the 4-day basketball tournament.

Egypt's Al Ahli dominates basketball tournament

AMMAN (J.T.) — Egypt's Al Ahli men basketball team scored their second victory Friday in the basketball tournament being held at the Al Hussein Sport City Sports Palace.

The Egyptians beat Jerusalem's YMCA 134-85 continuing the brilliant play that they displayed Thursday in their first match of the tournament.

On Thursday Her Majesty Queen Noor inaugurated the competition which is being organised jointly by the Ahli and Orthodox clubs of Jordan to commemorate His Majesty King Hussein's birthday which falls on Nov. 14. Queen Noor also watched the first match between the

Jordanian Ahli women team and its Egyptian counterpart.

Taking part in the four day championship are men and women teams representing the Jordanian Ahli team, the Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) team, Jordan's Orthodox team and the Egyptian Ahli team.

Attending the opening ceremony were Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Director of Jordan Youth Organisation (JYO) Mohammad Jamil Abu Al Tayyeb, Director of Hussein Sports City Isam Arida, Egyptian Charge d' Affaires in Amman Ihab Wahbeh and a number of officials and guests in addition to a large number of spectators. Queen Noor was presented with the championship's shield and with those of the participating teams.

On Friday morning the Jordanian Al Ahli women team beat Orthodox women 49-35. Both teams fought hard to secure a win

but Al Ahli were the better team on the day. Following the opening ceremony Thursday three matches were held in which the Egyptian teams made their presence felt from the first game. The first match saw the Jordanian Al Ahli women team defeated by Egypt's Al Ahli women 41-28.

After the women's match the Al Ahli men from Egypt and Jordan met in the second match of the tournament. The visitors did not find the Jordanian team an easy prey and had to fight hard to secure a 98-77 victory.

The third match in the evening was the highest scoring match of the opening day of the competition.

Jordan's Orthodox Club, several times champions of Jordan went on the rampage against Jerusalem's YMCA club and showered the YMCA basket with 116 points while the YMCA scored 79 points to lose the first match of their visit.

Amman Little League

Game scores - Nov. 9

Tots		
Jolift Blue 0		Jolift White 0
Juniors		Grindlays 0
Al Ahliya 2		Peugeot 1
Chase Manhattan 2		Arab Wings 2
International Traders 3		Holiday Inn 1
Marriott 5		
Mids		
American Express 2		Lego 0
Intercon 3		Telcom 2
Goodyear 1		Astra 0
ALICO 3		Jordan Express 0

LEAGUE STANDINGS

Tots	A	P	W	L	D	F	Pts
Jolift Blue	8	3	2	3	6	5	9
Jolift White	8	2	3	3	5	6	7
Adults (final)							
Arabs	7	6	1	0	19	6	12
Hisban	7	5	1	1	17	8	11
Brits	7	4	1	2	16	5	10
Team USA	7	3	1	3	9	5	9
U.K.	7	3	4	0	12	14	6
French	7	2	4	1	12	15	5
ACS Students	7	1	5	1	8	16	3
Yanks	7	0	7	0	5	27	0

Seniors		
Ericsson 4		Cairo Amman 2
Volvo 4		Foxboro 1

Cup play

Juniors
Nov. 14 9:00 a.m. Al Ahliya vs Marriott
Nov. 14 11:50 a.m. International Traders vs Chase Manhattan
Nov. 16 10:25 a.m. Winners of Nov. 14

Mids
Nov. 14 9:00 a.m. ALICO vs. American Express
Nov. 14 10:25 a.m. Intercon vs Goodyear
Nov. 16 11:50 a.m. Winners of Nov. 14

Seniors
Nov. 14 10:25 a.m. Foxboro vs Ericsson
Nov. 16 9:00 a.m. Volvo vs Winner of Nov. 14

Adults
Nov. 14 7:00 a.m. Arabs vs Yanks.
Hisban vs ACS Students
Nov. 14 4:30 p.m. Team USA vs U.K.
Brits vs French

Visiting French team wins parachuting contest

AMMAN (Petra) — The free-fall parachuting competition was held Friday after noon between the Jordanian free-fall parachuting team and their visiting French counterpart. The contest included various types of free falling during which the participants performed excellent performances in addition to a display performed by a number of planes of the Royal Falcons Club. The French team won the match on points. The French team is one of the world's leading teams and has ranked first several times in various championships. The match was watched by the French ambassador in Amman Jacques Alain de Sedouy and the embassy staff, the Special Forces commander, a number of the Jordan Armed Forces officers and some members of the French community in Jordan.

Fleming stays on title trial

LONDON (R) — American Peter Fleming, one of the most successful players in tennis history but without a major singles title since 1979, reached the semifinals of the London Grand Prix tournament Friday.

Fleming, who has yet to drop a set, beat Brazilian Cassio Motta 7-6, 6-2 and will now meet fourth-seeded Andres Gomez of Ecuador, a 6-3, 7-6 winner over American Vitas Gerulaitis, for a place in Sunday's final.

Five years ago, Fleming was ranked among the top 10 players in the world after wins in the Cincinnati and Los Angeles Grand Prix, where he beat John McEnroe in the final.

But while his singles career has since gone into decline, Fleming — in partnership with McEnroe — has collected almost every doubles honour the sport has to offer.

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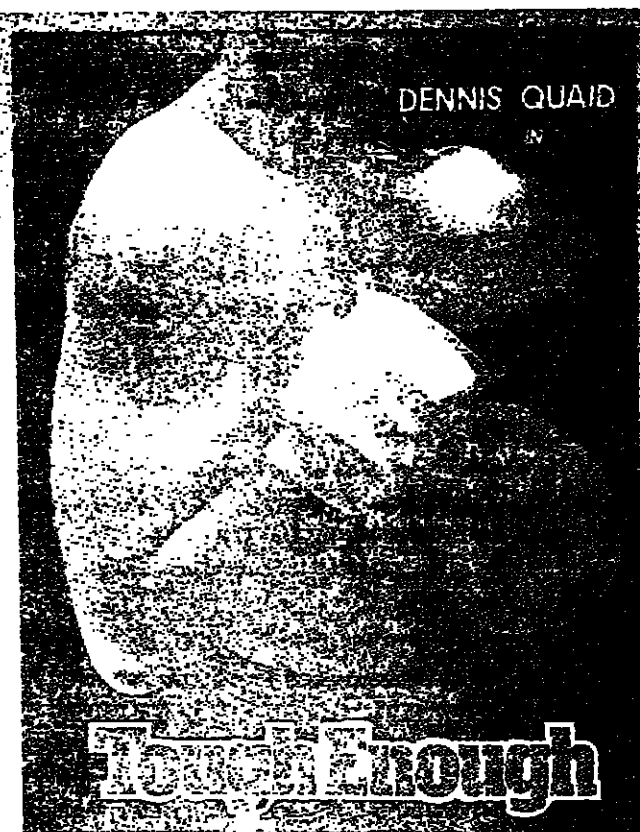
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Sunday	4.00 p.m.

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(Colour)

Noble Film (Colour)

Performances: 12-3-7

Britain, Iraq sign new \$380 m credit trade deal

LONDON (OPECNA) — Iraq will have to place contracts with British firms by the end of 1985 to qualify for a \$380 million trade deal agreed by the United Kingdom.

The agreement — for a \$346 million medium-term credit for capital goods and machinery and a \$64 million extended credit for pharmaceutical imports — was signed in Baghdad by British Trade Minister Paul Channon and his Iraqi counterpart, Mr. Hassan Ali, at a meeting of the Iraq-U.K. joint commission.

Mr. Channon said the deal, backed by Britain's Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), reflected the importance of the U.K. attached to trade with Iraq, adding that it would help generate business worth more than \$830 million for British companies.

A similar \$346 million credit, signed between the two countries last year for contracts concluded by the end of 1984, has largely been taken up, according to the ECGD.

A spokesman said Mr. Channon had "useful talks" with Iraqi ministers during his four-day stay, which included a visit to the Baghdad international fair to support British exhibitors.

Ottawa cuts spending to reduce budget deficit

OTTAWA (R) — Canada's new progressive Conservative government, painting a bleak economic picture, ordered spending cuts of 3.05 billion dollars in a bid to cut a record budget deficit.

Finance Minister Michael Wilson Thursday night warned of more cuts and possible tax increases in the full budget he plans for early 1985.

Mr. Wilson said the Conservatives wanted to show the private sector that business investment, not government programmes, will be the main force behind economic growth.

The finance minister also announced pay cuts of 15 per cent for Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and 10 per cent for cabinet ministers.

The Conservatives, elected with a massive majority on Sept. 4, scrapped many liberal programmes, froze growth of the public service and raised domestic oil prices to world levels.

They also said the budget deficit would be 26 billion dollars for the current fiscal year ending March 31, not the 22 billion dollars the Liberals forecast last February.

Mr. Wilson said his projections for modest economic growth during the rest of the decade were based on expectations that the United States would reduce its budget deficit, which would lead to lower interest rates.

He said without the spending cuts, the deficit would have hit about 28 billion dollars in 1985-86.

Mr. Wilson said the government believed unemployment would remain at around 11 per cent throughout 1985, falling to seven per cent by 1990.

New Zealand imposes higher taxes, charges

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand, declared an economic disaster zone by its minister of finance, Thursday announced higher taxes and fuel charges as part of a tough new budget to deal with a massive government deficit.

Finance Minister Roger Douglas, presenting the first budget since the Labour Party swept to power in July, said the average income tax rate would rise to 33 per cent from 31.5 per cent. Duty on cigarettes, alcohol and petrol will also be increased.

He announced a 45 per cent tax on perks such as company cars, higher charges for electricity — the country's leading energy source — and a 46 per cent increase in road taxes paid by truckers.

Mr. Douglas said earlier last week the budget would be "tough, but fair" as the government grappled with the nation's economic problems.

He said New Zealand, once one of the world's richest countries on a per capita basis, "is presently an economic disaster zone. We have laboured under an overvalued exchange rate, an out of control internal deficit, a mounting inter-

nal and external debt and continued extension of controls and regulations."

As a major step towards reforming a seriously flawed tax system, Mr. Douglas said a wide-ranging tax on goods and services including food would be introduced in April 1986.

He said the new levy, modelled on the European Community's value-added tax, would help to reduce future budget deficits and enable the government to cut the average income tax rate and trim marginal tax rates.

The marginal rates now go as high as 66 per cent of every dollar earned over 38,000 dollars (\$19,000).

With only five months of the financial year left, Mr. Douglas expected the deficit to drop to 2.76 billion New Zealand dollars (\$1.38 billion) from the 3.1 billion (\$1.55 billion) expected by the previous government.

But Mr. Douglas said his measures should trim the deficit by a further 1.07 billion dollars (\$535 million) next year and by 1.76 billion (\$880 million) the following year.

Soviet Union reports oil find in Baltic Sea

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union has struck oil in its sector of the Baltic Sea for the first time, the government daily Izvestia reported Thursday.

It said a drilling platform off the coast of the Kaliningrad region, formerly German East Prussia, had recently discovered a deposit of high-grade oil at a depth of 2,800 metres.

Izvestia quoted local oil company officials as saying the oil had a high petroleum content and the platform would now carry out further drillings to establish the size and viability of the field.

Soviet prospectors discovered onshore oil in the Kaliningrad region in the early 1970s and begun offshore drilling last February.

With oil production peaking in the Soviet Union's chief production areas in Western Siberia, Moscow has intensified the search for new reserves in other parts of the country and has already been drilling in the northern Barents Sea.

Izvestia gave no predictions for the likely size or volume of the new field in the Baltic.

Major firm announces big oil flow in Australia

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's largest company Thursday announced a big oil flow from a test well off the northwest coast and brokers said this indicated it had found a good field.

Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP) said it piped up 6,744 barrels of oil a day from the Challis One well in the Timor Sea, 600 kilometres northwest of Darwin.

Brokers said the flow confirmed the high quality of the oil reservoir in the vicinity and there was little doubt it would become a producer.

Another BHP test well near Challis produced 7,500 barrels a day last August.

BHP has not said when it might begin bringing up oil commercially by piping it on ships for possible refining in Singapore.

BHP is also expanding its search for oil and gas to the United States. It announced Wednesday a \$500 million takeover bid for Kansas-based Energy Resources Group Inc.

BHP is already the largest oil producer in Australia.

The country's output is about 660,000 barrels a day, or 70 per cent of its needs.

Hyper-inflation, recession plunge Israel in a rash of strikes, bankruptcies

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A rash of strikes and bankruptcies is sweeping Israel as the effects of the rapidly deteriorating economic crisis begin to hit home.

With the country beset by hyper-inflation and recession, half a dozen towns and villages have been virtually paralysed since last Sunday, when municipal workers went on strike in protest at non-payment of salaries.

Many towns are facing bankruptcy and local authorities decided Thursday on a nationwide strike of municipal services from Sunday unless the government transfers emergency funds.

The crisis has arisen because taxes have failed to keep pace with inflation, interest on bank loans has soared and banks are demanding tough terms for new loans.

Many towns are without rubbish collection, municipal offices are closed, health services reduced and schools and kindergartens closed.

In Nazareth, Israel's largest Arab town, rubbish has not been collected for two and a half weeks and there is serious concern at the growing health hazard.

Tel Aviv municipal workers joined the strike Thursday after banks refused to lend the municipality money to pay its wage bill.

Schools closed down at mid-morning and municipal hospitals provided only emergency services.

With inflation running at 800 per cent and the coalition government trying to reduce it to 200 per cent through a three-month wage and price freeze and at the same time cutting back hard on public spending, there are clear signs that the economy is entering a deep recession.

Many businesses are feeling the pinch.

Last Sunday the privately owned Maof Charter Airline went into receivership with debts of \$10 million. The government hastily arranged flights for hundreds of stranded passengers but refused to bail out the company.

Unemployment has recently risen to a five-year high of 90,000, five per cent of the workforce.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, battling to cut government spending, expects a considerable rise in that figure as the government trims the overmanned public sector and tries to move workers into export industries.

Chief of staff Moshe Levy announced Wednesday that 2,000 defence ministry employees would lose their jobs next year.

The recession has sent entire industries into crisis.

The government has declared textiles an "industry in distress" and is trying to save 3,000 jobs at ATA textiles, a long-established company that went bankrupt last month.

U.S. trade gap widens to \$33.3b

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. merchandise trade deficit widened to \$33.3 billion in the third quarter, the government reported Thursday, and Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said the country is headed for its worst trade year in history.

The strong dollar has hurt U.S. exports and helped bring a flood of imports into the United States, he said in a statement.

The trade and current account balances will improve with a lowered budget deficit, lower interest rates and a lower dollar, Mr. Baldrige said.

But he said that for now the merchandise deficit, which measures trade in tangible goods, is growing and America's usual surplus in the exchange of services is shrinking.

The combined effect will probably raise the U.S. current account deficit to over \$100 billion from last year's \$41.6 billion, Mr. Baldrige added.

The current account is the broadest measure of U.S. trade with the rest of the world. It includes trade in both goods and services, as well as some financial transactions.

Last year's current account deficit was an annual record.

The quarterly report Thursday from the Commerce Department covered exports and imports of merchandise ranging from raw materials and farm products to manufactured goods. But it excluded all military trade of U.S. defence agencies.

The report said the deficit widened in the July-September period to a record quarterly level of \$33.3 billion mainly because of a 13 per cent jump in non-oil imports.

On the other side of the trade ledger, U.S. exports rose a meagre one per cent.

In the second quarter the merchandise trade balance was in deficit by \$25.7 billion, the previous high.

Meanwhile, Reagan administration officials predicted Thursday that inflation will remain under control and the U.S. economy should expand at an annual rate of about four per cent through 1988.

A slowdown in the economy during the three months which ended in September will prove temporary and the recent drop in U.S. interest rates and world oil prices should provide new impetus for growth, the officials said.

"I don't see the signs characteristic of recession. I believe the period of weakness is basically over," senior White House economic adviser Mr. William E. Miller told Reuters.

He and other officials said the administration's 1985 economic forecast is likely to show four per cent growth and a stable inflation rate of just over four per cent.

Opinion in the London market on interest rates was divided, the traders said.

A preliminary version of the forecast, which is prepared as part of the administration's budget-writing process, will be presented to President Reagan this week.

The anticipated growth rate, which would follow growth of 6.2 per cent in 1983 and a similar advance this year, is the same as projected by the administration in its official forecast issued last August.

But the officials said the inflation news has improved and their forecast for price advances is now closer to four per cent than the 4.7 per cent advance estimated in August.

Some officials think the economy could expand even faster than the forecast shows, an outcome that would help reduce federal budget deficits. But they say the lower projection will be used for policy planning purposes because it is not prudent to assume the most optimistic outcome.

"If we are lucky we could see five per cent growth," said one official, who asked not to be identified.

The administration projects a 1985 budget deficit of \$167 billion, declining to \$139 billion by 1989. Growth of 5.5 per cent a year would cut that to \$21 billion by 1989, the administration also says. But private forecasters say those estimates are too optimistic.

The dollar advanced strongly on foreign exchange markets Friday, regaining ground against other currencies after its sharp losses earlier this week.

Dealers said many traders were having second thoughts about forecasts of further falls in U.S. interest rates, which had contributed to the dollar's recent decline.

The dollar, which fell below 2.9150 marks on Wednesday, climbed as high as 2.9685 marks in Europe and was set at 2.9655 marks at the midday Frankfurt fixing session compared with 2.9375 Thursday. It slipped back later to 2.9617, but was still well above Thursday night's New York close of 2.9407.

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Nuclear freeze would work against talks, U.S. says

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A top U.S. disarmament official has said a nuclear freeze would reduce, and perhaps eliminate, Soviet incentives to negotiate and would therefore work against the objective of lessening the threat of nuclear war.

"I understand the appeal of calls to freeze nuclear weapons first, then reduce them," David Emery, deputy director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, told the U.N. General Assembly's main political committee.

But, he added: "I am utterly convinced that it would not work that way. A freeze, by locking in existing Soviet military advantages and preventing us from modernising our forces, would reduce, perhaps eliminate Soviet incentives to negotiate."

Taking part in a debate on arms control issues, Mr. Emery said a freeze on all nuclear weapons would prevent both the Soviet Union and the United States from shifting to less threatening, clearly

retaliatory systems.

Since a freeze would have to be verifiable to ensure it met its stated goal, "why waste time negotiating a balanced and verifiable freeze when our time could be put to better use negotiating reductions in existing levels," he asked.

"For these reasons my government believes a nuclear freeze would work against the very objective its proponents espouse — a lessening of the threat of nuclear war," Mr. Emery stated.

Meanwhile President Ronald Reagan faces serious problems in the next Congress over his foreign policy and his defence buildup, congressional sources said.

A coalition of arms control groups, which contributed un-

precedented amounts of money and manpower to help favoured candidates in the election, say they have helped elect a Congress which will finally defeat Mr. Reagan's plan to build the MX nuclear missile and continue to deny funds for anti-government rebels in Nicaragua.

John Isaacs of the Council for a Liveable World, one of the coalition groups, said: "The MX missile is in more trouble than ever before."

Meanwhile a movement to establish nuclear free zones throughout the country reported it had won 14 of 16 communities where the nuclear free zone issue was on the ballot in Tuesday's elections.

In referendums over the past four years some 78 U.S. communities and countries have adopted nuclear free zones, which force nuclear contractors to convert to non-nuclear work or move elsewhere.

Although an ABC network election-day poll showed 84 per

cent of voters did not consider the nuclear freeze question important, many candidates in the presidential elections, including Democratic presidential challenger Walter Mondale, campaigned hard on the issues of war and peace.

Democratic Representative Paul Simon of Illinois, who ousted Republican Senator Charles Percy, said while he could not say to what degree, he was certain his support for the freeze aided his election.

Despite the Reagan landslide, "there is a yearning on the part of the American people for real meaningful limits on the arms race," he said.

Arms control groups, including Council for a Liveable World, National Nuclear Freeze Campaign, Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy and Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament, which held a news conference Thursday, said they were happy with the election results.



BEAUTIES AND THE BOBBY — Janet Clymer (left) who is Miss Guam and Bhagya Gunasinghe who is Miss Sri Lanka, get together with a London policeman in Kensington Palace Gardens in London. The two beauties are preparing for the final of the 1984 Miss World contest to be held on Nov. 15 (AP wirephoto)



Child molester agrees to castration

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (R) — An habitual child molester has agreed to surgical castration to stop repeated offences, a court was told. James Raklander, 47, was convicted in the district court Thursday of indecently assaulting an eight-year-old boy. Lawyers told the court that drugs had not controlled Raklander's paedophilia (sexual desire for children) and he had agreed to surgical castration on medical advice.

Actress gets \$90,000 for cracking tooth

NEW YORK (R) — Actress Gina Lollobrigida was awarded \$90,000 Thursday for cracking a tooth on a fried shrimp she was served in a New York restaurant. Manhattan's supreme court said Trader Vic's, a restaurant at New York's Plaza Hotel, had been negligent when Ms. Lollobrigida fractured a crown on an incisor tooth while dining there on June 17, 1980. The award included \$48,000 to cover the loss of a modelling job in Italy, \$1,000 to treat the tooth and \$7,000 in hotel bills. The remainder was for loss of a healthy tooth and "pain and suffering."

Technician run over by DC-10

JAKARTA (R) — An airport technician was crushed to death when the nose of a DC-10 airliner snagged his head, dragging him in front of the wheels, the official Antara News Agency said Thursday. It said the technician was directing the plane before its scheduled takeoff on Tuesday from Bali's International Airport.

Aquino's niece, Ver's son on same bowling team

SINGAPORE (R) — The niece of murdered Philippine opposition leader Benigno Aquino Thursday said she saw nothing wrong in being on a bowling team with the son of a general implicated in the murder. Marisse Reyes, representing the Philippines in a bowling competition along with Col. Irvin Ver, son of Philippine Army Chief Gen. Fabian Ver, told newsmen: "I don't mix bowling with politics." "Although we're in opposite (political) camps, we realised that we were here only for bowling — so we decided to come here to bowl and win gold for our country," she said. Col. Ver, 36, head of the Philippine Bowling Congress, is leading the Philippine delegation in the eighth Asian Bowling Championships here.

U.S. gets its first 'gay' city council

LOS ANGELES (R) — A coalition of homosexuals and tenants established the first American city with a council controlled by a homosexual majority, officials here said. The 36,000 inhabitants of the Los Angeles suburb of West Hollywood held a ballot to decide whether to turn their area into a city. The results showed the people were two-to-one in favour of the new status. Those who voted "aye" said their main objective, was to freeze rents. They chose a lesbian activist, Valerie Tetterton, as mayor, and two other members of their first five-member council are also openly homosexual. The five were chosen from among 40 candidates, half of whom were homosexual. Tetterton, has vowed in a city where 80 per cent of the people live in rented homes to freeze rents and then try to reduce them to the levels of Jan. 1. Homosexual organisations estimate that "gays" make up 40 per cent of the city's population.

At least 1,000 criminals roam in Manila

MANILA (R) — At least 1,000 criminals wanted for murder, rape, robbery and fraud have eluded arrest and could be on the loose in Manila, a police spokesman said Friday. He said arrest warrants could not be served because many of them had disappeared and several had jumped bail to escape prosecution. "Some of these wanted persons could be hiding in the provinces but many might be roaming the streets of Manila," the spokesman said. Police chief Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos has said there are about 35,000 wanted criminals in the Philippines.

Thai troops retake strategic hill

BANGKOK (R) — Thai troops recaptured a Vietnamese-occupied hill 2,000 metres inside Thailand Friday, an army spokesman said.

He said all Vietnamese troops were believed to have left Thai territory.

He put Thai losses at five dead and more than 40 wounded, but declined to estimate Vietnamese casualties.

The disputed hill in Surin province 300 kilometres north-west of Bangkok is a Thai police post on

the Kampuchean border which was overrun on Monday.

The fighting began when about 100 Vietnamese troops crossed into Thailand in pursuit of Peking-backed Khmer Rouge guerrillas operating along the border.

Thailand and Vietnam have been at odds since Vietnamese troops invaded Kampuchea in late 1978 to oust the Khmer Rouge from power and install the Heng Samrin government.

Vietnam is expected to launch a dry-season offensive against

Kampuchean guerrillas sooner than in previous years, the Secretary General of the Thai National Security Council said Friday.

Prasong Soonsiri told reporters Hanoi had moved troops and weapons to the Thai-Kampuchean border since July.

He said he expected border refugee camps to be the chief target of the attacks.

Mr. Prasong said 83,500 Kampuchean had fled into Thailand earlier this year to escape the fighting.

Britain orders defence alert

LONDON (R) — Britain said early Friday that all its military bases had been put on a state of "heightened alert."

Defence Ministry sources told Reuters the move was a routine response to two bomb scares Thursday at defence bases.

A ministry spokesman said a "heightened state of alert" was ordered at all defence establishments, including Northern Ireland, early Thursday evening.

"I cannot tell you why this heightened state of alert has been put into operation," the spokesman said.

British security chiefs have said they believe Irish guerrillas will try to follow up their bomb attack last month on a hotel where Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and most of her cabinet were staying for the Conservative Party conference.

Mrs. Thatcher escaped unharm but four people died and 32 were injured in the attack.

5 Romanians allegedly involved in criminal plot

BONN (R) — A West German newspaper said Friday West German counter-intelligence was seeking the expulsion of five Romanian diplomats it said had engaged in criminal activities.

The conservative daily Die Welt, in a front-page story citing government sources, said all five were members of the Romanian Intelligence Agency (CIE).

It said their criminal activities included planning a bomb attack against U.S.-operated Radio Free Europe in Munich, masterminding the robbery of a Romanian exile in Cologne, and planning the kidnapping of a recent Romanian exile, or his murder if the abduction were unsuccessful.

The West German Foreign and Interior Ministries declined to comment on the report, and sources at Radio Free Europe in Munich said it came as a surprise to them.

A spokesman at the Romanian embassy said the report was a complete fabrication. He said Romania's charge d'affaires would seek clarification from the Foreign Ministry.

Sikh refugees return home

NEW DELHI (R) — Many Sikhs who fled to refugee camps during widespread Indian riots last week returned home Friday and said they were reassured by improved security and offers of compensation to victims of unrest.

Some 1,000 people, mostly Sikhs, died in four days of violence triggered by the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by two Sikh bodyguards on Oct. 31.

At least 30,000 people fled the worst-affected areas of Delhi for the safety of hastily erected refugee camps where government and private relief groups distributed food, blankets and medical supplies.

Reuters correspondents Moses Manoharan and Frances Kerry toured one of the camps at Ludlow Castle in north Delhi and found many refugees preparing to return home.

"About 5,000 people have already left and 200 went home early today," said Davinder Singh, a 25-year-old assistant engineer.

"The attitude of most people (in the camp) has changed a lot in the last three days. People who said they could only go to Punjab state (where most Sikhs live) have started saying they will stay in Delhi after all," said student Anup Dubey, 21.

Factory owner Hari Singh, 51, said his family would leave the camp Friday. "We're leaving with an army escort. The soldiers have made us feel safe. We don't know what we'll find when we reach home... but business is good in Delhi so we have decided to stay," he said.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, sworn in hours after his mother was shot, has launched a drive to restore public confidence with immediate compensation for victims and property damage.

E. Germans occupy Bonn's Warsaw, Bucharest missions

BONN (R) — East Germans seeking asylum in the West have occupied the West German embassies in Warsaw and Bucharest, government sources said Friday.

Bonn's embassy in Prague has been occupied for over six weeks by up to 150 East Germans who refuse to leave without the promise of exit visas for West Germany, and its embassy in Budapest is sheltering about 11 people seeking asylum, according to government sources.

The sources did not say how many refugees were in the Warsaw and Bucharest embassies, or how long they had been there.

West German embassies in nearly all Warsaw Pact capitals, with the exception of Moscow and the West German mission in Sofia, are now known to be housing East Germans.

The West Germans permanent mission in East Berlin has been re-designed to prevent East Germans seeking asylum as happened several times this year.

A sit-in at the Prague embassy by about 40 people seeking asylum in late September and early October quickly escalated, forcing Bonn to close the mission with over 100 East Germans inside. Even then, more would-be refugees gained entry.

Government sources in Bonn are pessimistic about the chances of an early negotiated settlement to the problem.

East Germany has offered to drop any charges against the refugees provided they agree to return home but, in contrast to past settlements, it is refusing to promise them exit visas.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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ANSWERS TO BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠QJ109763 ♠A ♦AKQJ2

What is your opening bid?

A.—Believe it or not, there is a conventional bid that can handle this situation. Open five spades. That asks partner to raise you to the six-level if he holds either the ace or king of your suit, or to bid a grand slam if he happens to have both.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠1095 ♠K63 ♠A84 ♦J982

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT ♠ West

2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—On this auction, there is a chance that your partner has only four spades and five hearts. However, it is much more likely that he has five spades and four hearts, and you owe it to him to take a preference to his first-bid suit. Correct to two spades.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠QJ63 ♠Q9854 ♦Q932

Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

A.—Just because you aren't enamored with partner's bid and are afraid that he might Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AJ95 ♠87 ♦KJ6 ♠AQ106

The bidding has proceeded:

East South West North

1 ♠ Dble Pass 2 ♠

Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—What would you like to do? Even though you have more than a minimum for a takeout double, partner has denied fair values by his

failure to jump. In addition, he almost certainly does not have four spades. Since there is no hope for game, you might as well pass in case partner is really broke.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠K986 ♠AJ10632 ♠K6 ♦5

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ ?

What do you bid now?

A.—You have a superb hand for partner. Nevertheless, it is still a minimum opening bid, and you shouldn't get carried away by the distribution. Raise to two spades. Unless partner can bid again, you are unlikely to have missed anything. By the way, only a selfish player would rebid a six-card suit with four-card support for partner's suit, especially a major.

rebid his suit at a higher level is no reason for you to throw in the sponge. If partner does have a second suit, you might even have a game. Respond one no trump and see what happens.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A987 ♠KJ6 ♠AJ104 ♦J9

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 NT Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—There is no point to bidding your spades. First, partner is unlikely to have four-card support. Second, you might confuse partner into thinking that you have an unbalanced hand with at least five diamonds, and as a result your side could end in the wrong spot. Make the value bid of six no trump.

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